Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

SHOUT
SHARE
IT

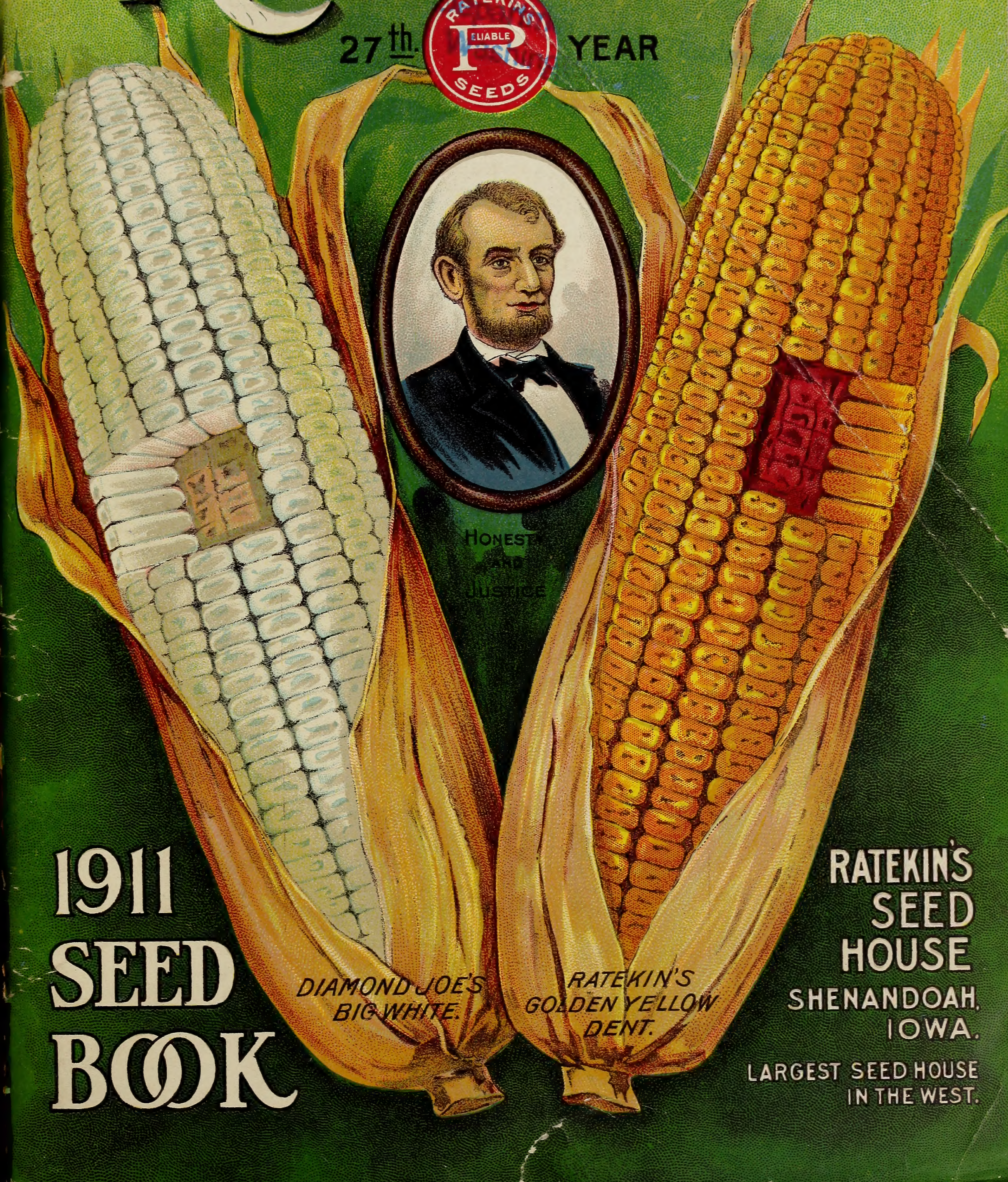
62.27

Hill W Tracy Sr.

Ratekin's

RATEKINS RELIABLE R SEEDS

27th. YEAR


HONESTY AND JUSTICE
DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE.
RATEKIN'S GOLDEN YELLOW DENT.

1911 SEED BOOK

RATEKIN'S
SEED
HOUSE
SHENANDOAH,
IOWA.

LARGEST SEED HOUSE
IN THE WEST.

FREE SEEDS

IT WILL PAY YOU TO READ EVERY LINE AND WORD ON THIS PAGE

JOYOUSLY, we have planned a joyous treat to all this year and expect to give away FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF SEEDS ABSOLUTELY FREE TO OUR CUSTOMERS, and the best of all is, we allow you to do your own selecting of such seeds as you choose to make without reference as to whether it is Farm, Garden or Flower Seeds.

ISN'T THIS MOST JOYFUL

On all orders under $10.00, at catalog prices, for Garden and Flower Seeds in packets and by the ounce, you may select, *in addition to all other* DISCOUNTS and PREMIUMS offered on page 54, as follows: For $1.00 select 25c. worth of packet seeds; For $1.50 select 35c. worth; For $2.00 select 50c. worth; For $3.00 select 75c. worth; For $4.00 select $1.00 worth; For $5.00 select $1.25; For each dollar's worth of seeds in packets and ounces up to $10.00, add 25c. worth in packets and ounces. REMEMBER THESE ARE JOY PREMIUMS, IN ADDITION TO ALL OTHER DISCOUNTS OR PREMIUMS, offered elsewhere in this catalog. Read carefully and make your selection at time of sending in your order.

BULK SEEDS

On bulk Vegetable, Garden and Flower Seeds of $5.00 and upward, select and add 5 per cent. in seeds as a premium; on orders of $10.00 and upward you may add 10 per cent. additional seeds, of your own choice, either in packets or in bulk.

WHOLESALE PRICES TO LARGE PLANTERS AND TRUCK GROWERS

WE WILL SELL YOU THE BEST SEEDS IN THE WORLD AT THE LOWEST PRICES. Take our catalog and go through it item by item and make out a list of your wants and requirements and send it to us and we will be pleased to figure on it and give you the benefit of lowest wholesale prices.

We give no Premiums or Discounts on Farm, Field and Grass seeds, but if you want a large quantity, we will be pleased to have a list of your requirements, and will gladly figure on it and give you closest prices possible to be made, grade and quality considered. In short, we want you to write us a letter. We are always glad to hear from our old customers and are anxious to make the acquaintance of as many new ones as we can. We have tried to make everything plain in our catalog, but if there is anything you don't understand write us and we will be more than pleased to give you any further information we can. We have left a blank page, the last one in our catalog, on purpose for each and every one to write a letter upon when in doubt about anything along our lines, or when you think we can be of help or service to you in making selection of seeds best suited or adapted to your climate, soil or latitude. In our TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE SEED BUSINESS, added to many years of practical experience on the farm, and with the experiences of more than a hundred thousand farmers and truck growers who have bought seeds from us, we are often able to greatly assist our customers in making selections and varieties best suited to their wants and requirements.

ALWAYS WRITE YOUR LETTER ON A SEPARATE SHEET FROM THE ORDER. The order goes to the packing and shipping department to be filled, while the letter comes to our desk. Put your name and address on each, *your letter and your order*, and DON'T FAIL TO WRITE YOUR NAME, POST-OFFICE, COUNTY AND STATE PLAINLY.

SPECIAL REQUEST

To those of our friends and customers who have been sending and ordering their seeds from us for one, two, five, ten and twenty years, we feel it unnecessary for us to dwell on the merits of our seeds. The fact that you continue to send back year after year is sufficient evidence to us that you have been pleased with the kind treatment and our best efforts to serve you.

Now we are going to ask each of you as well as every one who receives this catalog to show us the kindness and your appreciation of the excellent manner in which we have endeavored to serve you to send us at least one new customer this year.

ONE THING MORE: Please be good enough to show this catalog to some friend and neighbor who may want seeds of any sort, or who may be in the habit of sending away for a change of seeds. Ask him or her to look it over carefully, and get them to TRY US ONCE; better still, get them to join you in a club order. If your shipment goes by freight or express at your expense, we can put up each order separate and mark it distinctly, and make shipment to one party, all together, and this will lessen cost of freight, besides you will get the benefit of quantity prices. We believe and know you will do us this favor, and that you will not only send us your order, whether large or small, but will try to get some of your friends and neighbors to join with you. WE THANK YOU FOR PAST FAVORS and want you to know that we shall ever be glad to reciprocate in like manner.

Truly and sincerely yours,
RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE

J. M. Rate
Manager

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE.

Number ....

Filed by ....

Checked by ....

Shipped by ....

ESTABLISHED 1884

Order Sheets for Seeds

Every Order, Large or Small, Will Receive Careful Attention

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE, Shenandoah, Iowa

Gentlemen: Please send the following Seeds, etc., by ....
(State here if wanted by Mail, Express or Freight.)

Name ....

Post Office .... State ....

County .... St. No., P. O. Box or R. F. D. No. ....

Nearest Railway Station ....
(State here name of town to which goods are to be sent.)

Dated this .... day of .... 191......

AMOUNT ENCLOSED	DOLLARS	CTS.
P. O. Order . . .		
Express Order . .		
Bank Draft. . . .		
Check		
Cash		
Postage Stamps .		
Total		

Please write your name and address distinctly and in full with each order. Old customers who have moved since last season will please state their former address also. Read "Suggestions to Customers" on page 3 of Catalog. Extra order sheets and return envelopes on application.

NOTICE—Our terms are strictly cash with order, which may be sent by Post-office Money Order, Express Money Order, Draft, Check or Registered Letter. Postage stamps to the amount of $2.00 may be sent at our risk if more convenient. Shipping C. O. D. adds inconvenience and unnecessary trouble and expense to the customer.

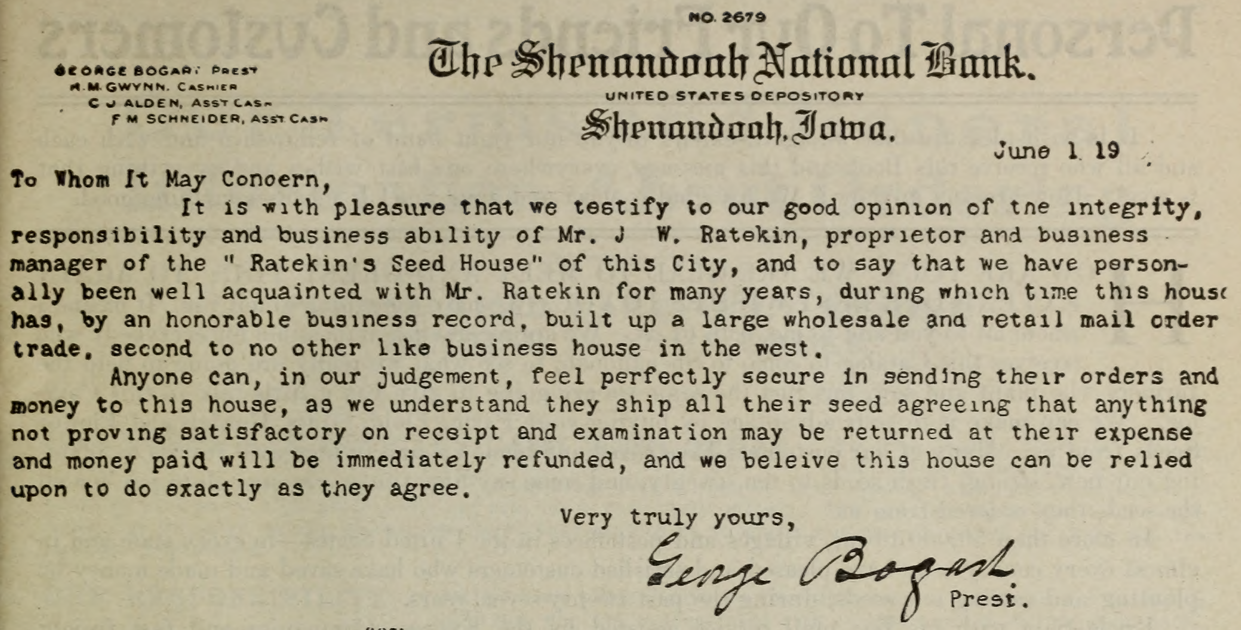
WE PREPAY THE POSTAGE on all Flower and Vegetable Seeds, by the packet, ounce, pound, pint and quart; and when ordering by freight or in connection with field or heavy seeds at your expense you should deduct at the rate of 8 cents per pound from catalogue prices.

QUANTITY or NUMBER.	NAME OF SEEDS OR OTHER ARTICLES WANTED.	PRICE.	
		Dollars.	Cents.
	Amount carried forward:		

QUANTITY or NUMBER.	NAME OF SEEDS OR OTHER ARTICLES WANTED.	PRICE.	
		Dollars.	Cents.

☞ **We shall consider it a special favor if you will write here the Names and Addresses of your neighbors who usually send for their seeds. Please do not write anything but names and addresses in the spaces below.**

NAMES.	POSTOFFICE.	R. F. D. No.	STATE.



NO. 2679

GEORGE BOGART, PREST
H. M. GWYNN, CASHIER
C. J. ALDEN, ASST CASH
F. M. SCHNEIDER, ASST CASH

The Shenandoah National Bank.
UNITED STATES DEPOSITORY
Shenandoah, Iowa.

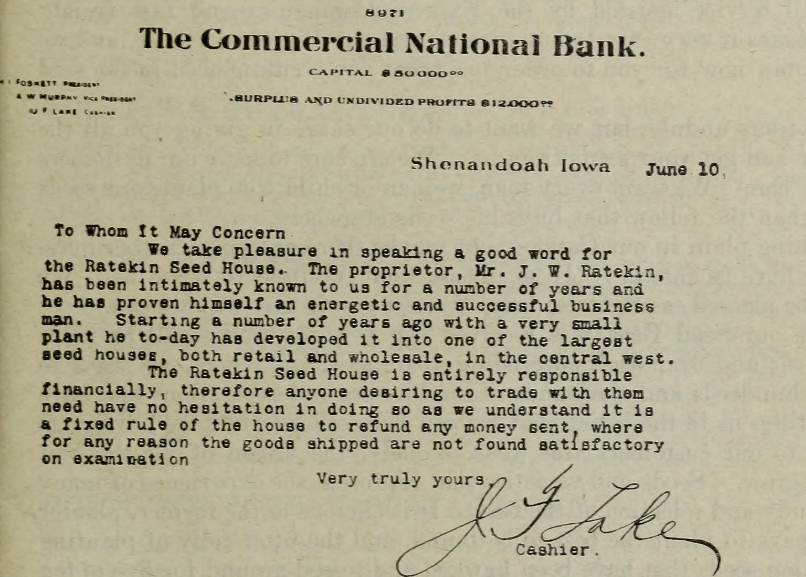
June 1 19

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with pleasure that we testify to our good opinion of the integrity, responsibility and business ability of Mr. J W. Ratekin, proprietor and business manager of the " Ratekin's Seed House" of this City, and to say that we have personally been well acquainted with Mr. Ratekin for many years, during which time this house has, by an honorable business record, built up a large wholesale and retail mail order trade, second to no other like business house in the west.

Anyone can, in our judgement, feel perfectly secure in sending their orders and money to this house, as we understand they ship all their seed agreeing that anything not proving satisfactory on receipt and examination may be returned at their expense and money paid will be immediately refunded, and we beleive this house can be relied upon to do exactly as they agree.

Very truly yours,
George Bogart
Prest.



8971

The Commercial National Bank.
CAPITAL $50000.00
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS $12000.00

H I FOSKETT PRESIDENT
A W MURPHY VICE PRESIDENT
J F LAKE CASHIER

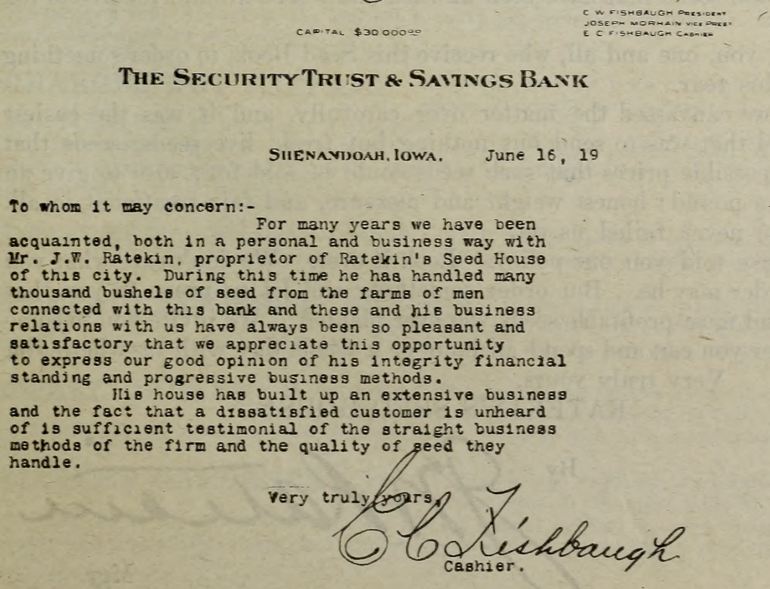
Shenandoah Iowa June 10

To Whom It May Concern

We take pleasure in speaking a good word for the Ratekin Seed House. The proprietor, Mr. J. W. Ratekin, has been intimately known to us for a number of years and he has proven himself an energetic and successful business man. Starting a number of years ago with a very small plant he to-day has developed it into one of the largest seed houses, both retail and wholesale, in the central west.

The Ratekin Seed House is entirely responsible financially, therefore anyone desiring to trade with them need have no hesitation in doing so as we understand it is a fixed rule of the house to refund any money sent, where for any reason the goods shipped are not found satisfactory on examination

Very truly yours
J F Lake
Cashier.



CAPITAL $30 000.00

C W FISHBAUGH PRESIDENT
JOSEPH MORHAIN VICE PREST
E C FISHBAUGH CASHIER

THE SECURITY TRUST & SAVINGS BANK

SHENANDOAH, IOWA. June 16, 19

To whom it may concern:-

For many years we have been acquainted, both in a personal and business way with Mr. J.W. Ratekin, proprietor of Ratekin's Seed House of this city. During this time he has handled many thousand bushels of seed from the farms of men connected with this bank and these and his business relations with us have always been so pleasant and satisfactory that we appreciate this opportunity to express our good opinion of his integrity financial standing and progressive business methods.

His house has built up an extensive business and the fact that a dissatisfied customer is unheard of is sufficient testimonial of the straight business methods of the firm and the quality of seed they handle.

Very truly yours,
E C Fishbaugh
Cashier.

REFERENCES
AND
RELIABILITY

Our Reliability: We have resided in Shenandoah and vicinity for more than thirty-four years and have been engaged in the seed trade since 1884, twenty-seven years at this place, and hope to continue in business here many other years to come. We have seen this city grow from a small hamlet out on the prairie when the only railroad depot we had was a box car, to a busy metropolitan city, surrounded as it is by the most fertile region to be found in the world. During all these years, one by one we have become familiarly acquainted with all, and we take pleasure in referring our new and prospective customers to the **Shenandoah National Bank, Commercial National Bank and The Security Trust & Savings Bank** of this city; to the mayor, postmaster, Pacific and Adams Express Agents, or to any business man, firm or house, as well as to Dun's and Bradstreet's Commercial Agencies; in fact, your local bank or banker can furnish you with our financial standing if you care to make inquiry.

Personal To Our Friends and Customers

It is with pleasure that we again extend to you our right hand of fellowship and wish each and all who receive this Book and this message, everywhere our best wishes and everything that is good. How are you anyhow? We are glad to meet and greet you! It means something good.

HOW ARE YOU? WE ARE GLAD TO MEET AND GREET YOU; TO AGAIN EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES TO YOU. We have something to tell you. It means a whole lot to you and to me, both of us. We appreciate it is impossible for everybody who receives this Catalog to come to Shenandoah, to see what we really are doing to help the farmers who plant and sow, but just the same we are going to give you a little talk in this Catalog. We can make it to your advantage by buying your Farm, Field, Grass, Garden and Flower Seeds from us. Many of our customers have saved and made enough in increased results by planting our new, strong, fresh seeds to ten, twenty, and some say fifty times over enough to pay for all the seeds they ordered from us.

In more than 50,000 towns, villages and postoffices in the United States—in every state and in almost every county—we have pleased and satisfied customers who have saved and made money by planting and sowing our seeds, during the past twenty-seven years.

Uncle Sam with his fast mail service assisted by the Express Companies and fast freight Railroad transportation service, makes it very easy to buy direct from our Big Seed House, and we have made it just as easy as we know how for you to order just what you want or need in the seed line.

We don't want to hurry your orders unduly, but we want to do our share in giving you all the facts about how easy it is to order and get your seeds from us. We are here to serve our customers and to help them in every way we can. We want every man, woman or child who plants our seeds to grow a little, yes bigger, crop than the fellow that buys his seeds elsewhere.

We have tried to make everything plain in our Catalog, but maybe there are some further questions that you would like to ask or have us answer? If so, please don't hesitate to write us. We will gladly answer them and will be pleased to otherwise help or assist you in any way we can.

The general favor with which our Seed Book was received last year, as well as all previous years, has multiplied our trade over and over each succeeding year, and, right here, we want to say we are not unmindful of the hundreds and thousands of kind letters and expressions that have been showered upon us, which justifies us in the belief that we can help others who take advantage of the offering we are presenting to our customers this year, namely, the cream of all the best improved varieties and seeds that grow. Seeds and varieties that represent the experience of many years of close attention, careful study and selection of the best. It is obvious to the farmer, planter and truck grower that it always pays to plant the best to be found, and the utter folly of planting old, poor, cheap, inferior commission seeds that have been hawked and tossed around for five to ten years.

In conclusion, we want to ask you, one and all, who receive this Seed Book, to order something and test our seeds out just once, this year.

When we started in business we canvassed the matter over carefully, and it was the easiest matter in the world to decide, and that was to send out nothing but fresh, live seeds, seeds that would grow and make the lowest possible prices that such seeds could be sold for; also to give an ounce for an ounce, a pound for a pound; honest weight and measure, and fair treatment to all. On this basis our customers have never failed us yet.

Here is our Catalog. We have told you our policy. Look it over. We don't care what you order; how large or small your order may be. But order something and let us prove to you that you are getting the best bargain and most profitable seeds you ever planted. We invite you to come to Shenandoah and see us whenever you can and spend an hour or a whole day with us where you can see for yourself.

Very truly yours,
RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE,
By J.N. Ratekin
Mgr.

Our Terms and General Information About Ordering

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SENDING IN YOUR ORDER

OUR TERMS ARE STRICTLY CASH WITH ORDER. We send nothing C. O. D. Every item entering into the Seed Business is spot cash. Cash buys the best of everything. When cost of seed, postage and other necessary expense is paid good, high grade seeds are sold on a very small margin. It's not the big profits on a single order, but the large volume of business we do that enables us to make you bargain prices and give you the most for your money.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY: As this book will probably go into the hands of hundreds and thousands of people who are unacquainted with us, this question will naturally arise, and in answer to the same we take pleasure in referring you to the Shenandoah National Bank, The Security Trust and Savings Bank, the Mayor, Postmaster, Adams or Pacific Express Agents, or any business house or any other person whatsoever of this City.

WHAT WE GUARANTEE: That all money sent to us for seeds shall reach us if sent us by registered letter, postoffice or express money order, or bank draft made payable to our order, or your personal check if you have the money back of it to make it good. That your orders will be filled promptly and with care. Keep a copy of your order. Sometimes people think they have ordered articles which they have omitted, and blame us for not sending them. Please be careful to sign your name, postoffice, state and rural route plainly.

ABOUT WARRANTING: We thoroughly test all our seeds and nothing is sent out which we do not believe to be of good strong germination and that will grow good under any reasonable conditions; still crops are contingent upon so many conditions, etc., over which we have no control, including soil, weather, time and manner of planting, cultivation, etc., that **we cannot be responsible for the product and give no warranty, expressed or implied as to description, quality, quantity or productiveness of any seed sent out by us,** and every order for seeds named in this catalog will be executed on these conditions only, and if the purchaser does not accept the seeds on these terms and conditions they are to be returned within 10 days from the time received. This gives ample time for inspection and testing as to vitality. It, however, must be plain to every one who gives the matter the slightest thought that it is to our best interest to send out only such seed stock as will not only grow, but prove true to name and description.

WHAT WE PREPAY POSTAGE ON: We pay postage or express charges on all vegetable, flower and other seeds quoted by packet, ounce or pound; one-half pint, pint and quart, and guarantee safe delivery at any postoffice in the United States. If such seeds, however, are to be sent inside of a sack of heavy field seeds to go by express or freight at expense of purchaser, you may deduct at the rate of 8 cents per pound from regular catalog price for any vegetable or flower seeds contained in the order.

CHARGES NOT PREPAID. All seeds sold by peck or bushel or other than pound prices, including Farm, Field and Grass Seeds, etc., etc., are sent by freight or express as may be directed, at purchaser's expense.

Boxes and bags are free with all shipments of Seed Corn, Oats, Barley, Speltz and other grain. But sacks for grass seeds add 20 cents extra for each bag. Ear corn, 70 lbs. per bushel; shelled corn, 56 lbs. per bushel.

DELIVERY. The point of delivery of all heavy goods is on cars at Shenandoah. When we quote a delivered price at your station it means we prepay the freight or express charges.

PREPAID STATIONS. Many of our customers live at points known as prepaid stations, where there is no agent. In such cases you should always send money enough to prepay freight charges through to such points, otherwise we will ship to nearest station where there is an agent.

SMALL ORDERS. It matters not what you want in the seed line, nor how large or small your order, even only one packet, we shall be glad to hear from you and it will have our prompt and best attention and we will otherwise try to serve you in a manner that will please you.

MARKET GARDENERS and others who buy vegetable and flower seeds in bulk to amount of $5.00 or over are requested to make out a list of their wants and requirements and send them in when we will make them our lowest special prices on large orders. In short, we want to hear from every one who receives this book and you may always depend upon receiving the most courteous treatment.

It Is Easy to Order Your Seeds by Mail.

Ordering by mail is not a difficult task. The following points are sufficient ninety-nine times out of a hundred:

1st. Take our catalog and select your seeds, using our blank order sheet if you have one. If not any kind of plain paper will do.

2d. Give name and price of each article.

3d. Write your full name and Postoffice address, as well as shipping point if different from your Postoffice.

4th. If seeds are to be sent by packet, ounce, pound, pint or quart, we prepay all postage or express charges, and you will receive your seeds sent that way within a week from the time you mail your order at your home Postoffice. If seeds are to be sent by freight or express at your expense, give name of your shipping station and name of Railroad. If seeds are to be sent by express, give name of your shipping point and also name of your Express Co. If there is no freight agent at your station, remit extra to cover the freight. Always send good and plenty to pay the charges and if any is left we will return excess promptly by first mail.

5th. Enclose Postoffice Money Order, Express Money Order, Bank Draft or send money by Registered Letter. If you have money in the bank and not convenient to send remittance as stated, send your personal check. We like to do business with those who have a bank account as well as those who are trying to start one—something you will soon do if you plant Ratekin's Reliable Seeds. In addition to the methods of remittance we will accept clean postage stamps, one and two cent denominations, for small orders of less than $2.00, when not convenient to send by more approved methods.

6th. Don't waste time by writing to ask if we have certain kinds of seeds, except it may be some variety of seed corn not listed by us, as we carry a full and complete stock of every kind of farm, grass and garden seeds grown that are worth planting. In short, we are here to meet the requirements and demands of the trade and you have no use to hunt elsewhere for anything in the seed line you want.

Don't Be Afraid of Making a Mistake.

For 27 years we have been handling orders from all classes of people, ''old and young,'' and have learned how to handle their orders in a manner that always pleases them. Don't be afraid you will make a mistake—we make them, so does everybody, but we are always glad to correct them. Write your name and address plainly, and if there is anything wrong about your order we will either correct it or notify you. Talk natural to us; tell us what you want in your own language. Long experience has taught us how to understand our customers. We have tried to explain and make everything plain in this catalog, under head of ''Suggestions to Our Customers'' and ''Simple Rules for Ordering.'' But if there is anything else you want to know write us and we will be glad to answer your questions and give you any information we can.

About Claims for Damages and Overcharges.

We carefully pack and deliver all our seeds in good condition f. o. b. here and take receipt from railroad or express companies, as case may be, showing they have been received in good order and good condition, and it rarely happens that any seeds reach destination in bad order. If, however, it should happen that bags are torn, boxes broken open or are otherwise in bad order; short in weight or in number of bags, or in any way defective **BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR RAILROAD OR EXPRESS AGENT MAKE NOTATION OF SUCH SHORTAGE OR DEFECTION ON FREIGHT RECEIPT** (expense bill) he gives you. You can then present your claim for loss or damage to your agent from whom you received the seeds, it being his duty to take the matter up with the Auditing Department of his road and connecting lines, or if you will send the receipt or expense bill with said notation of shortage, defection or overcharge, we will file claim for you at this end of the route, with the initial railroad and agent here. We know how to handle such claims and have seldom if ever failed to collect full value of the loss or damage. **THIS WE DO ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGE TO OUR CUSTOMER**, but of course would not advise or encourage any one to make claim for the trifling amount of a few cents.

FREIGHT RATES.

Don't Let the Question of Freight Charges Worry You.

Because whether you buy from us, your home dealer or elsewhere, you pay the freight and usually a profit on that. Just so you make up an order to weigh one hundred pounds or over you will get the benefit of the hundred pounds freight rate and as low as any local merchant can get any where in the United States. Less than one hundred pounds will be charged same as if there was that much, but all shipments above one hundred pounds will be charged pro-rata on hundred pounds basis. The savings we make you on new high grade seeds, added to the increased yields and results of your crops, will pay you many times over, as first cost of good seeds is nominally nothing as compared with planting old run out or inferior sorts.

You will find it to great advantage many times to induce your neighbors to join with you in ordering seeds for your farm and garden. We have many customers hundreds of miles away who club together and send their orders to us for seeds, thus getting their seeds cheaper and still further reducing freight rates and we would be very glad to have you and your neighbors take advantage of our lowest quotations in larger amounts.

Freight on seeds in one hundred pound quantities and over is a small item, and by referring to this table of rates and finding the nearest point or town in the table below you can calculate almost exactly what the freight will amount to. It may be a few cents more or a few cents less, but it will give you an idea of what it will amount to. (See next page.)

LIST OF FREIGHT RATES FROM SHENANDOAH, IOWA, PER CWT. TO POINTS NAMED BELOW

ALABAMA.

Birmingham	$0.54
Montgomery	.54
Fruitdale	.57
Mobile	.47
Tuscaloosa	.54
Decatur	.49
Selma	.55

ARIZONA.

Phoenix	2.30
Prescott	2.30

ARKANSAS.

Hoxie	.63
Hope	1.06
Fort Smith	.69
Parragould	.70
Blythedale	.70
Brinkley	.72
Stuttgart	.76
Little Rock	.65
Pine Bluff	.76
Helena	.67
Bentonville	.50
Arkansas City	.60
Texarkana	.89
Fayetteville	.55
De Valls Bluff	.60
Siloam Springs	.50
De Queen	.86
Ashdown	.86

CALIFORNIA.

Los Angeles	1.40
Sacramento	1.40
San Francisco	1.40
San Jose	1.40
Redding	1.65

COLORADO.

Denver	.74
Greeley	.75
Pueblo	.75
Kit Carson	.75
Trinidad	.75
Leadville	1.40
Ft. Morgan	.74
Holyoke	.73
Boulder	.74
Brush	.74

CONNECTICUT.

Bridgeport	.65
Hartford	.65
New Milford	.65
Litchfield	.65
New Haven	.65
Waterbury	.65

CANADA.

Chatham	.50
Bothwell	.50
St. Thomas	.50
Toronto	.50
Montreal	.62
Quebec	.68
London	.49

DELAWARE.

Dover	.62
Farmington	.62
Newark	.60
Wilmington	.60

GEORGIA.

Atlanta	.54
Brunswick	.55
Savannah	.55
Macon	.56

IDAHO.

American Falls	1.50
Boise	1.80
Spencer	1.45

ILLINOIS.

Centralia	.34
Canton	.30
Chicago	.32
Aurora	.32
Bushnell	.27
Beardstown	.27
Galesburg	.27
Galva	.30
Litchfield	.34
Monmouth	.27
Ottawa	.32
Peoria	.30
Quincy	.27
Rock Island	.27
Savanna	.27
Carthage	.27
Decatur	.30
Champaign	.32
Carmi	.42
McLeansboro	.40
Decatur	.29½
Sidell	.40
Olney	.42
Cairo	.49
Murfreesboro	.47
Bloomington	.32
Paxton	.38
Jacksonville	.30
Springfield	.30

INDIANA.

Effner	.39
Adams	.48
Albany	.46
Ft. Wayne	.43
Indianapolis	.41
New Albany	.42
Terre Haute	.38
Huntington	.42
Vincennes	.37
North Vernon	.41
Muncie	.42
Lafayette	.40
Evansville	.45
Martinsville	.44
Greencastle	.42
Valparaiso	.43
Frankfort	.41
Michigan City	.44
Goshen	.43

IOWA.

Hamburg	.08
Carson	.10
Clarinda	.08
Council Bluffs	10
Chariton	.14
Cumberland	.13
Clinton	.27
Creston	.11
Albia	.16
Burlington	.22
Des Moines	.16
Griswold	.09
Humeston	13
Ottumwa	.17
Sioux City	.19
Manning	.25
Coon Rapids	.26
Tama	.34
Oskaloosa	.18
Marshalltown	.22
Hampton	.25
Storm Lake	.30
Cedar Rapids	.38
Rockwell City	.26
Spencer	.31
Spirit Lake	.32
Jefferson	.24
Sac City	.28
Davenport	.27
Dubuque	.27
Emmettsburg	.32

KANSAS.

Concordia	.39
Atchison	.20
Garnett	.39
Ft. Scott	.32
Gt. Bend	.63
Leavenworth	.20
Beloit	.49
Parsons	.32
Wichita	.55
Newton	.51
Topeka	.30
Manhattan	.38
Emporia	.43
Winfield	.60
Oberlin	.66
Dodge City	.51
Garden City	.65
Olathe	.32

KENTUCKY.

Louisville	.42
Madisonville	.48
Hopkinsville	.44
Gracey	.44
Hematite	.47
Greenbrier	.49
Owensburg	.42
Russellville	.50
Bowling Green	.51
Lexington	.50
Lebanon	.50
Pembroke	.49
Paducah	.55
Owensville	.55
Hickman	.55
Henderson	.52
Cynthiana	.52
Ashland	.52

LOUISIANA.

Shreveport	.98
Pearl River	1.06
New Orleans	.92

MARYLAND.

Baltimore	.59
Cumberland	.59

MICHIGAN.

Jackson	.54
Adrian	.48
Bay City	.48
Detroit	.48
Grand Rapids	.48
Kalamazoo	.48
Lansing	.48
Ann Arbor	.48
Brown City	.51
Chippewa	.53
Emmett	.49
Manisteque	.57
Cadillac	.52

MINNESOTA.

St. Charles	.32
Rochester	.32
Wauseka	.32
St. Paul	.32
Blue Earth	.32
Fairmont	.32
Fairbault	.32
Duluth	.32

MISSISSIPPI.

Corinth	.95
Tupela	.97
Aberdeen	1.01
Meridian	.97
Okolona	1.00
Artesia	1.01
Starkville	1.01

MISSOURI.

Delta	.52
Dexter	.62
New Madrid	.56
Malden	.65
Carrollton	.20
Cameron	.20
Kansas City	.20
Laclede	.27
Maywood	.27
Napier	.15
St. Joseph	.15
Osborn	.20
St. Louis	.27
Hannibal	.27
Brunswick	.20
Boonville	.40
Moberly	.27
Kirksville	.27
West Plain	.47
Maryville	.15
Higginsville	.40
Neosho	.45
Eve	.45

MONTANA.

Miles City	1.48
Livingston	1.59
Butte	1.63
Helena	1.63

MASSACHUSETTS.

Fall River	.65
Springfield	.65
Worcester	.65
Boston	.65

NEBRASKA.

Chester	.37
Culbertson	.63
Columbus	.30
Alliance	.74
Ashland	.21
Beatrice	.32
Broken Bow	.56
Edgar	.39
Fairmont	.34
Grand Island	.39
Holdredge	.54
Hastings	.39
Kearney	.46
Lincoln	.24
Omaha	.15
Norfolk	.32
Superior	.40
Tecumseh	.27
Wymore	.32
York	.34
Fremont	.24

NEW YORK.

Rochester	.58
Churchville	.58
Syracuse	.61
Utica	.63
Rotterdam Jct.	.64
Cornwall	.66
New York City	.66
Mohawk	.63
Troy	.60
Buffalo	.49
Albany	.60
Poughkeepsie	.62
Binghampton	.61

NORTH CAROLINA.

Charlotte	.65
Fayetteville	.59
Washington	.65
Wilmington	.60

NORTH DAKOTA.

Fergus Falls	.55
Fargo	.59
Bismarck	.81
Grand Forks	.65

OHIO.

Chillicothe	.48
Cincinnati	.45
Cleveland	.47
Columbus	.45
Dayton	.42
Defiance	.44
Lima	.45
Portsmouth	.46
Toledo	.45
Xenia	.45
Youngstown	.48
Eldorado	.42
Newark	.47
East Mandale	.50
Versailles	.52
Pickway	.53
Washington, C. H.	.60
Bluffton	.44
Ironton	.47
Savona	.42
Canton	.47
Zanesville	.48
Sandusky	.46
Akron	.47
Troy	.48

OKLAHOMA.

Vinita	.56
Wagoner	.65
Muskogee	.66
McAllister	.75
Bartlessville	.56
Osage	.66
Tupelo	.96
Guthrie	.82
Atoka	.96
Oklahoma City	.82
Tulsa	.66
Okmulge	.72
Chickasha	.82
Enid	.82
Hugo	1.09
Howe	.82

OREGON.

Portland	1.40
Salem	2.05

PENNSYLVANIA.

Pittsburg	.50
Johnstown	.54
Weverton	.59
Philadelphia	.60
Bedford	.59
Erie	.50
Gettysburg	.59
Scranton	.60
Blairsville	.59
Lewisburg	.59

RHODE ISLAND.

Providence	.65
Woonsocket	.65

SOUTH DAKOTA.

Aberdeen	.56
Armour	.49
Canton	.52
Gettysburg	.60
Chamberlain	.55
Vermillion	.49
Yankton	.39
Sioux Falls	.32
Huron	.48
Watertown	.45
Pierre	.60
Deadwood	1.32
Rapid City	1.28

TENNESSEE.

Princeton Jct.	.47
Pond	.51
Bear Springs	.45
Tennessee Ridge	.51
Milan	.45
Nashville	.42
Memphis	.39
Gallatin	.50
Hartsville	.51
Frankfort	.48
Maysville	.49
Paris	.54
Union City	.74
Jackson	.89

TEXAS.

Dennison	1.15
St. Joe	1.15
Minneota	1.15
Dallas	1.15
Denton	1.15
Ft. Scott	1.15
Hillsboro	1.22
Temple	1.22
Georgetown	1.22
Austin	1.22
San Antonio	1.22
Galveston	1.22
Fayetteville	1.22
Houston	1.22
Cisco	1.22
Henritta	1.22
Brownwood	1.15
Waco	1.22
Harris	1.15
Corsicana	1.15
San Angelo	1.15
Abilene	1.15
Amarillo	1.22
Dublin	1.15
Pallinger	1.15
Paris	1.15
Stephensville	1.15
Beaumont	1.22

UTAH.

Ogden	1.55
Salt Lake City	1.55
Manti	1.70
Bingham	1.55

VIRGINIA.

Abingdon	.67
Lynchburg	.59
Richmond	.59
Clarksville	.67
Virginia City	.55

WEST VIRGINIA.

Clarksburg	.51
Richmond	.59
Grafton	.52
Deer Park	.59
Parkersburg	.50

WISCONSIN.

Beloit	.32
Madison	.32
Chippewa Falls	.47
Prairie Du Chien	.32
La Crosse	.32
Manitowoc	.32
Milwaukee	.32
Wausau	.32

WYOMING.

Cheyenne	.75
Evanston	1.55
Rawlins	1.55
Laramie	1.55
Wheatland	1.70

WASHINGTON.

Tacoma	2.61
Spokane	2.46
Pasco	2.64
Seattle	2.61

Ratekin's Seed House

The Largest Field Seed Corn Growers in the World

WHY we have made the growing of Seed Corn our greatest specialty? It was because we have lived all the days of our life in a corn growing country, where corn was the chief product and the foundation of the money crop, Hogs, Cattle and Horses. In fact, wherever corn can be grown, the farmer shares the bounties of prosperity. Iowa not only produces more corn than any other state in the Union, taking ten years' stretch by which to compute, but also raises almost twice as many hogs as any other state and feeds and ships more fat cattle to market than any other state, and stands at the head on horses as well as poultry, butter, etc., etc.

While all Iowa is good corn land, there are portions that are exceptionally good,—superior to other places—especially so for growing, ripening, maturing and producing Seed Corn, and this applies to Southwestern Iowa and the Nishnabotna Valley country in the vicinity of Shenandoah. It's a wonderful productive country. The soil is a rich light sandy loam extending down four, six and even eight feet in depth, full of life-giving qualities that makes the monster crops of corn it grows, and it's by reason of these natural conditions of seasons and soil that it warms up quickly after the frost is out of the ground; hence we can always plant here with safety full ten days to two weeks earlier than corn planting begins 25 to 50 miles east, west, north or south of us, or in any other portion of Iowa, and the corn grows off much more rapidly than it does on a black heavy soil, thus our corn comes to maturity full two to three weeks ahead of crops in the same latitude or any other portion of this state. This is one of the many primary advantages and reasons why this is the banner Seed Corn growing locality of the United States. Seed Corn grown here can always be depended upon to be sound, well matured and of great vitality to grow. Added to this we are just far enough both north and south to successfully grow and mature all the medium and large varieties, while we can produce a much better quality of seed of the early sorts such as are adapted to the seasons of the extreme northern latitudes and states like Northern Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and North and South Dakota, as well as along the lake shore counties of Indiana, Ohio, and in New York, Pennsylvania and the New England states, where they require early maturing varieties, to make themselves safely before frost.

General Information

Shenandoah is located in the Southwestern part of Iowa, 20 miles east of Nebraska and the same distance north of the Missouri line, 485 miles almost due west of Chicago, on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, 366 miles northwest of St. Louis, and 50 miles southeast of Omaha and Council Bluffs, on the main line of the Wabash between Omaha and St. Louis, 150 miles north of Kansas City. Shenandoah is also the terminus of the Keokuk and Western Railroad. We have two Express Companies, the Pacific and the Adams, which give us good competition and excellent shipping facilities. Through freight from here reaches St. Louis within 24 hours from time it starts, Chicago likewise; also Kansas City, St. Joseph, Leavenworth and Atchison, same day, while mail and express matter reaches all these points within 12 hours from time it starts, thus you can always estimate time required for seed to reach your railroad station, express office or your postoffice wherever it may be.

We offer no confusing discounts, fakes, free trial packages, etc., but each and every customer may select their own premium on the basis of

25 CENTS WORTH EXTRA IN PACKETS OR OUNCES
FOR EVERY DOLLAR REMITTED, FOR
PACKETS AND OUNCES ONLY

☞ We wish to call the attention of our customers to the fact that this discount does not apply to quarter pounds, half pounds, pounds, pints, quarts, pecks or bushels. On completion of your order, add the total amount sent for seeds by the packet and ounce, and for each one dollar remitted for seeds in these quantities, you may select your own premium on the basis of 25 cents worth of extra packets, or ounces, for each dollar remitted; and in addition, Premiums noted on first inside cover page.

SPECIAL **Your Extra Premiums on Each Dollar Remitted for Packets and Ounces Must Be Selected in Packets and Ounces Only, and at Time You Send Us Your Order.**

NO FARM OR MARKET GARDENER whose requirements of garden or truck seeds amounts to or exceeds $5.00 to $10.00 and over, should fail to make up his list and send us; we will be pleased to figure on it and make you the lowest special prices.

Sectional View and Illustration of Our Daily Outgoing Mail from January First to April Fifteenth

Our Seed Catalog Is Free

WHILE we never impose our catalog on any one, **IT IS MAILED FREE** to all our old customers who have bought seeds from us at any time during the past two years and to all others who are sufficiently interested to drop us a line or write a postal card requesting it, especially those who are interested in the crops they grow or have an idea or purpose to improve their crops. To all such we will take great pleasure in mailing it **FREE** at all times, as well as other printed matter, upon request, by either letter or postal card.

In adopting this plan and method we desire to impress upon everyone that **OUR CATALOG IS ABSOLUTELY FREE** to all interested. But we do not send our catalog broadcast to any one outside of old or former customers unless by request. Incident to adopting this method, there are so many changes in post office addresses, rural routes, etc., etc., and for one cause and another that we do not deem it of sound business policy to send our catalogs broadcast or promiscuously when they do not reach the individual intended for.

In conclusion, allow us to say that if any of our customers have friends or neighbors that they think may be interested or who wish to make a change or send away for seeds or who would like our catalog, we will gladly mail each of them a copy with samples of such seeds as they may be interested in, **FREE** of charge, upon request. We will also be pleased to answer any questions you may have to ask or give any information we can pertaining to any seeds or crops listed in our catalog. We are always pleased to help our customers in the selection of their seeds and varieties best suited to their climate, soil and latitude.

THE LARGEST SEED CORN GROWERS IN THE WORLD

WHAT THE NEWSPAPERS AND AGRICULTURAL PRESS SAY:

"Ratekin's Seed House Pioneers in Seed Corn Improvement"

From ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH:

Southwestern Iowa is the natural and most favored home of corn where it attains its greatest perfection. This is no idle boast. The claim can be easily established. The Nishnabotna Valley is wonderfully productive. Bayard Taylor, the famous poet, author, journalist and traveler, crossed this part of the country years ago, before Shenandoah existed and when this part of Iowa was an unbroken prairie occupied only by Indians, prairie chickens, wolves and deer. Standing upon a hill top four miles southwest of the site of the city, Mr. Taylor gazed across the valley of the Nishnabotna River and declared that the landscape was the most beautiful he had ever seen. He called it the garden spot of the world. The rich soil extends four, six and even eight feet in depth, full of life giving qualities that make the monster crops of corn. Mark out a square of 25 miles eastward from the banks of the Missouri River and ten miles south to 40 miles north of the state line and there is not another such productive spot in the world.

While there has been no regular organization among the corn growers of that section there has been a rivalry that has stimulated and made possible greater improvement in the production of a higher type, better quality and larger yields perhaps than if such an organization had existed. Among the choice and favorite varieties in greatest favor is what is known as "Ratekin's Pride of Nishna." It is one of the best and most distinct types of corn in existence and is becoming the main crop of the corn belt. It is a medium sized variety of yellow corn possessing a marked degree of superiority over other varieties of corn grown elsewhere, and in addition has uniformly given the most uniform large yields. This variety of corn is grown with great success from the Dakotas to Texas and other distant states, but after two or three years it deteriorates and a new supply of better seed from the Nishnabotna Valley must be supplied.

For 27 years such pioneers in the seed corn business as the Ratekins have talked "the breeding up of corn." At first they were laughed at for their pains, but their advice and persistence has resulted in the raising of unheard of crops. One hundred bushels to the acre is no uncommon thing. But such crops are secured only by carefully selected seed and varieties and by a mixture of brains with its cultivation.

The Iowa State Agricultural College first had its attention called to the possibility of the great increase that could be made in the corn growing districts by experiments made in this section. Year after year it has experimented with the seed corn obtained from this locality, southwestern Iowa, and year after year the best results and largest yields have been obtained from Shenandoah seed. Missouri Agricultural College has found the Shenandoah seed the best. Nebraska's college has made the same discovery.

In South Dakota Iowa grown seed has won honors, and indeed three years ago the first honor at the Ames Agricultural College was awarded a South Dakota man on corn grown from Shenandoah seed, and that man attributed his prize to the fact that he had secured the best seed obtainable.—St. Louis Dispatch.

In addition to this the Ratekin Seed House is constantly trying new varieties of corn and whenever any of these new varieties prove of special merit we propagate it and place it before our customers and they get the benefit. If you want to improve your corn and increase your yield, don't fool away your time sending to amateurs for seed because they offer it but a little above elevator prices. Cheap prices may seem attractive to some, but it's better and cheaper to pay **FIVE DOLLARS PER BUSHEL** for good seed corn; thoroughbred, of inherited productive qualities, than to plant some seed even as a gift.

IOWA HOMESTEAD—(Des Moines, Iowa):

Many farmers have become a little bit excited during recent years about their seed corn, this being due to the agitation that emanates from Agricultural Colleges. As a result of this agitation there has sprung up a large number of so-called corn experts. Many of these were "grown over night"—a hot-house production, as it were. It is not so with the Ratekin Seed House of Shenandoah, Iowa. Twenty-seven years of experience count for more than mere reading of a bulletin or two. As a result of this long experience the Ratekin Seed House has acquired the whole combination that must be called into being if one's customers are satisfied. The success of this firm, as indicated by the growth of their business, should be a matter of great pride to the manager, J. W. Ratekin, but the reputation of having started thousands of men in the corn belt with a supply of good seed is, after all, the most substantial monument to its success.

From BREEDERS GAZETTE:

RATEKIN'S FARM ANNUAL is especially strong on the seed corn side, yet it illustrates and describes all kinds of seeds for the farm, field and garden. The Ratekin Seed House is located at Shenandoah, Iowa, and is an immense establishment. They have built up their large and rapidly growing business by "making good" that declaration, "They sell seeds that grow." The seeds grow because they have been well grown, intelligently and properly cured. Seeds thus handled possess strong germinating power. They are full of constitutional vigor, to use the words of a plant breeder. Extreme care is exercised in the selection of seeds, especially the farm seeds offered, and the Ratekin people believe they can supply a grade of farm seeds that cannot be excelled in freshness, soundness and freedom from trash, foreign seeds or disease. (See next page.)

Successful Seed House

OHIO FARMER—(Cleveland, Ohio):

Ratekin's Seed House:

Gentlemen:—It is with much pleasure that we state that during the many years advertising you have done in our paper we can find record of having received complaint from only one of our many thousands of readers who patronize you, and you at once settled that complaint promptly, and more generously than the complainant had any right to expect. We therefore can honestly endorse your methods of doing business.

Wishing you the very best success during the coming season, we are,

Very truly yours, Lawrence Publishing Co., by M. W. Lawrence, President.

INDIANA FARMER—(Indianapolis, Ind.):

Ratekin's Seed House has become well known to the farmers of the Western Central States. The house has been selling field and garden seeds to our readers for many years past, and so far as we know with uniform satisfaction to those using them. Indiana Farmer Co.

JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE—(St. Louis, Mo.):

Ratekin's Seed House:

Gentlemen:—It is said that he who plants a tree is a public benefactor. It can be truthfully said that he who improves and contributes to the improvement of the products of the farm and garden in quality and quantity is more entirely a benefactor—as these products sustain life, add to its comforts and pleasures, and assist materially in putting Agriculture on a higher plane. You are entitled to this distinction. As the publishers of an agricultural journal we deem it our duty to our great farming constituency to guard his interests in the matter of seeds and to recommend to him that which will do him good and advance his interests. We have had many an occasion these twenty-five years of our acquaintance to recommend to him your products and you have at no time abused the confidence we reposed in you or inspired in others. You have, to use a trite phrase, ''delivered the goods,'' and such as have met expectation and been satisfactory. We rejoice in your success, thus honestly won, and with best wishes for your future, we are,

Yours very truly, Journal of Agriculture.

COLEMAN'S RURAL WORLD—(St. Louis, Mo.):

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:

We extend to you our appreciation of your continuous patronage of our advertising columns since 1885, and judging from the high manner in which our readers have always endorsed your business methods and the good you have done for the farmer you will certainly reap a reward. We have yet the first complaint to receive from any reader where they have not had the best treatment from you.

We pledge you our hearty support in the good work you are doing, and wish you continued success and prosperity. Very truly yours,

Coleman's Rural World, L. M. Eidman, Adv't Mgr.

From FARM AND RANCH—(Dallas, Texas):

It may be of interest to you to know that although **FARM AND RANCH** has always guaranteed every advertisement in its columns, it has not during the many years you have advertised with us, had a single complaint against your house. In view of the fact that you have done an enormous business in this southwest it ought to be gratifying to know that while we have heard many complimentary things as to the methods and way you do business, we have never had a single complaint. In view of the large amount of business you have from this section, the above facts are the strongest possible endorsement of your firm. Personally, we hold you and your firm in the highest esteem, and do not hesitate to recommend you to our readers. Yours very truly, Texas Farm and Ranch Pub. Co., Frank P. Holland, Pres.

From KANSAS FARMER—(Topeka, Kansas):

Ratekin's Seed House:

Gentlemen:—We are pleased to say that for twenty years the Kansas Farmer has been favored with your seed advertising, and we are gratified to state to you that during this time we have never had a single complaint. This tells a significant story in your behalf. Evidently your system and methods of doing business are thoroughly up-to-date and satisfactory to all concerned.

Yours very truly, Kansas Farmer Publishing Co.

THE FRUIT GROWER—(St. Joseph, Mo.):

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:

The Fruit Grower desires to say that its business relations with you have always been very satisfactory and we have yet to hear of a customer who has any complaint to make of the treatment he has received from you. Yours respectfully, Fruit Grower Co.

FARMERS' TRIBUNE—(Sioux City, Iowa):

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:

We have carried your advertisement for a good many years and we are pleased to say in this connection that we have yet to receive the first complaint from any reader who has dealt with you. The fact that you were pioneers in the growing and breeding of improved varieties of seed corn has given you prestige, and this opinion is the main reason why your business has grown so rapidly in recent years.

Very truly yours, John Thompson, Editor.

(Continued on next page.)

Successful Seed House

From TWENTIETH CENTURY FARMER—(Omaha, Neb.):

When the Ratekin Seed House of Shenandoah, Iowa, sends the seed you can plant it without any worry as to results. The Ratekin Seed House was established in 1884 to meet a demand for pure bred seed corn. It was a farmer who founded it. Twenty-seven years in growing and selecting farm and garden seeds means a lot of experience. It means that poor and inferior varieties have been discarded and thrown out and only the most prolific and hardy sorts retained. A visit to the Ratekin's Seed House would be worth money to any farmer. It would open his eyes and sharpen his wits. He would begin to understand why pure bred, carefully selected seed is worth planting. The Nishnabotna Valley of southwestern Iowa is the Egypt of the world on corn. The Ratekins were the pioneers in the business. Others have tried to imitate in this line, but they have come and gone. Order your seed corn from them, and don't worry about results.

FARMERS MAIL AND BREEZE—(Topeka, Kansas—
62,000 circulation in Kansas and Oklahoma):

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:

You have used space in the Farmers Mail and Breeze for many years and we have frequently seen letters from our subscribers complimenting your seed house upon its promptness and satisfactory manner in which you transacted your business with them.

With best wishes for your further success, we are,

Very respectfully, Farmers Mail & Breeze, by Arthur Capper, Publisher.

FARMER AND STOCKMAN—(Kansas City, Mo.):

For many years the Ratekin Seed House of Shenandoah, Iowa, has been a free user of advertising space in the Farmer and Stockman. As a result of this many of our readers have had business dealings with this firm. We believe that we voice the sentiments of practically all customers of this firm when we say that all seeds sent out by the Ratekin Seed House are not only up to the standard in germination qualities and in purity, but they are above the standard in excellency of varieties offered for sale. This is especially true as applied to farm crops, and notably of seed corn. The locality where they are situated is recognized to be one of the best corn growing localities in the United States, and by a system of co-operation with good corn growers a large number of varieties are grown under the very eye of the officers and managers of this house, so that when such corn is sent out it does not turn out to be a hybrid, but produces like the parent corn. Any endorsement that we might give to the methods adopted by this firm in caring for their corn might with equal force be applied to their plan of handling all seeds.

WISCONSIN FARMER—(Madison, Wis.):

Ratekin's Seed House, of Shenandoah, Iowa, has become exceedingly well known by a great many of our readers, and this acquaintance begun in a business venture involving the purchase of some kind of seeds, has ripened into real friendship. This well known firm has made the growing of pure bred Seed Corn a specialty for over twenty-seven years, growing thousands of acres each year under special contract with the farmers of their locality. Shenandoah is located in one of the best Seed Corn districts in the United States, and by supplying the best seed and the best of varieties the Ratekin Seed House has built up a wonderful business, extending to every State in the Union. On their books they have the names of thousands of good farmers who have given them the strongest kind of endorsement.

NATIONAL FARMER AND STOCK GROWER—(St. Louis, Mo.):

We desire to say that Ratekin's Seed House, of Shenandoah, Iowa, stands high as a well equipped reliable seed house. After carrying their advertisement for many years we have every reason to believe and certify that our patrons are well satisfied with seeds bought of them and results obtained. We have received words of commendation, but never a word of complaint.

Philip H. Hale, Ed. National Farmer & Stock Grower.

FARMERS' TRIBUNE—(Sioux City, Iowa);

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:

We have carried your advertisement for a good many years and we are pleased to say in this connection that we have yet to receive the first complaint from any reader who has dealt with you. The fact that you were pioneers in the growing and breeding of improved varieties of seed corn has given you prestige, and this opinion is the main reason why your business has grown so rapidly in recent years.

Very truly yours, John Thompson, Editor.

PRAIRIE FARMER—(Chicago, Ill.):

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:

We are pleased to have the opportunity to say that for many years we have watched with a lot of interest the splendid growth of your seed corn business. During this time you have supplied many thousands of our subscribers with seeds, and that you have treated them well and given them good value is evident from the fact that in all these years we have never received a single complaint. It is always a pleasure, therefore, to recommend you to our readers, and we hope when you have cast up your accounts for this season, you will find such treatment of customers has won its reward in making this the largest and most profitable season you have ever had. Thanking you for past favors, and hoping in future we may be able to serve you further, we remain, Very truly yours, Prairie Farmer, A. G. Sullivan, Adv't Mgr.

What Good Farmers and Planters Say About Good Seeds, Good Crops and Good Results. Thousands of Others Tell the Same Story About Ratekin's Seed Corn —Better Than We Can Tell It Ourselves

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI,
Agricultural Experiment Station.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa. Columbia, Mo., March 22, 1910.

I was pleased with the manner in which you responded to my letter of 17th inst., and thank you sincerely for your co-operation. The Seed Corn has arrived and I find it of excellent quality. However, your shipping clerk forgot to label the varieties. Of course I know the white is Diamond Joe's Big White, but don't know the name or variety of the yellow. (It was "Ratekin's Golden Yellow.")

Very sincerely, F. H. Demaree, Instructor.

El Paso Co., Colorado, May 6, 1910.

The carload of seeds ordered for my own use, consisting of Seed Corn, Oats, Barley, Alfalfa and other seeds reached here on time and in excellent, good shape, and will say that it was the finest seeds in quality I have ever seen or had anything to do with, and think the finest that has ever been introduced into this country. I will write you again when the crop is made and tell you how it pans out.

Very truly yours, W. C. Hanks.

Ohio Land and Farming Co., Toledo Ohio, August 12, 1910.

If your Winter Wheat is as good as your Seed Corn we want some of it. We have 35 acres of corn grown from Ratekin's Golden Yellow Dent, and it is the best corn in our 200 acres we have this year. We will want 75 bushels of your New Malakoff Wheat. Make us best and lowest quotations on this amount.

Yours truly, Ohio Land and Farming Co.

The Seed Corn I bought for my Arkansas farms and had sent to Clarence Vollmer, Ponset Co., last year gave splendid satisfaction, although we had 63 days' drouth, beginning July 8th. Enclosed find draft for $61.50 for Timothy and Alsike Clover Seed. Ship promptly, same address as before given, Clarence Vollmer, Ponset Co., Ark. Very truly yours, E. B. Boyd, Warren Co., Ill.

Oct. 20th, 1909.

The Diamond Joe's Big White Seed Corn I got from you last spring was first-class in every respect. You may be interested to know I took first premium at the Green Co. fair on an exhibit of some of my corn grown from seed I got from you. Very truly yours, W. L. Toalson.

Green County, Ill., Oct. 28th, 1909.

I have had splendid good success with Diamond Joe's Big White Corn I got from you two years ago,—have taken three first premiums and one sweepstakes over all competitors, and think this pretty good. Kindly send me copy of your 1910 catalog. Very truly yours, G. W. Potter.

Henry County, Ill., Jan. 10th, 1910.

Send me your 1910 catalog and sample Diamond Joe's Big White Corn. I want to get some of it. I saw an ear of this corn grown from some seed you sent out last year that measured 16 inches in length and well proportioned in every respect. Very respectfully, W. E. Cutshall.

Scott County, Indiana, Jan. 9th, 1910.

The Diamond Joe's Big White Seed Corn I got from you last year proved wonderful, making an average yield of 80 bushels per acre. Please send sample of your New Sensation Oats; also Russian Oats.

Boone County, Mo., Jan. 30th, 1910. J. Baker Sapp.

The Diamond Joe's Big White Corn you sent me last year done remarkably well for me, making an average yield of 65 bushels per acre, and had it not been for the dry weather in August it would have made a much larger yield. W. W. Bywaters.

Platte County, Mo., Jan. 20th, 1910.

Diamond Joe's Big White Corn is certainly all right. It gave me splendid results last season, and I intend planting my entire crop to it this year. Please give me best prices on Red Clover, Alsike and White Clover seeds. J. M. Huffstuttler.

Wright County, Mo., Jan. 21st, 1910.

I got some Diamond Joe's Big White from you two years ago and have grown the best corn any where in this community. My ground was good and well prepared before planting and was cultivated by surface cultivator and obtained a yield of 15 to 30 bushels more per acre than was grown from other varieties on equally good land. I firmly believe this corn to be unsurpassed or equaled by any other variety. Please send me your 1910 catalog. Truly yours, John A. Wright.

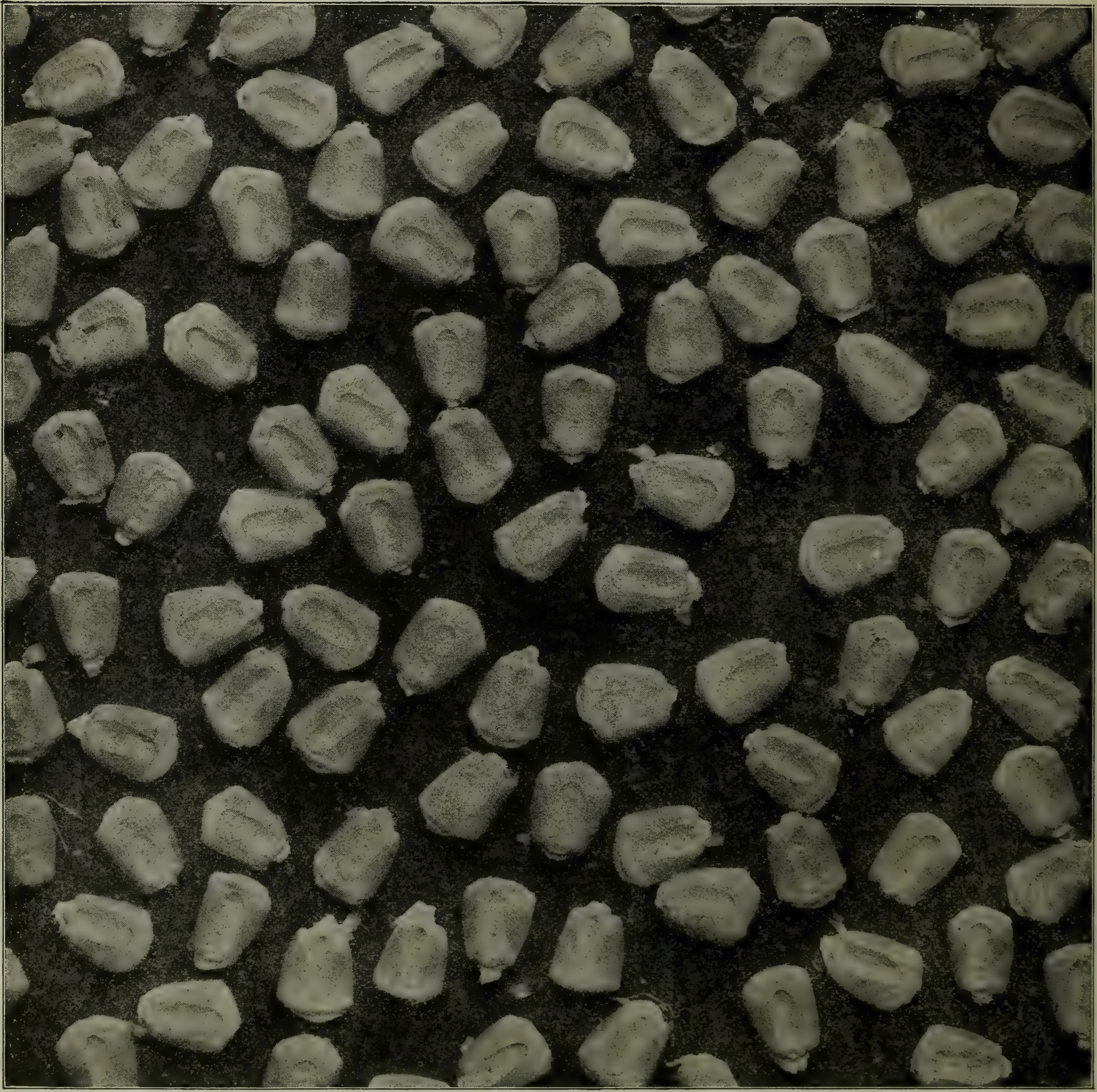
Crawford County, Ind., Dec. 6th, 1910.

The Diamond Joe's Big White Corn got from you last spring has proven a great success. It gives a large crop of fodder and the ears are large and well formed and is an enormous yielder. The Iowa Silver Mine also done remarkably well. Oats likewise done fine; gives strong, stiff straw with long, well-filled heads. Kindly mail me your 1910 catalog as soon as out. Very truly yours, H. L. Cox.

Barbour County, W. Va., Dec. 21st, 1909.

Our Cleaning and Grading Equipment

THE BEST THAT MONEY CAN BUILD



WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF GOOD SEED CORN? There are three important factors that enter into this question. First, to be seed it must possess good, strong vitality and must grow. Second, it must be pure bred; and third, it should be grown from pure inherited stock—stock that is capable of producing the highest yield of good, sound, solid, well-matured corn per acre. As an evidence of this and in corroboration of these requirements, we wish again to quote from Prof. P. G. Holden, of the Iowa State Agricultural College and Experimental Station, of Ames, Iowa, who says: "I visited the corn fields and took seed corn from the corn planter boxes of one hundred farmers, where they were planting corn, in Storey County, Iowa, near the Agricultural College, and planted it in the trial fields of the Agricultural College. Some made only 20 **BUSHELS PER ACRE,** while other lots yielded **ALMOST ONE HUNDRED BUSHELS PER ACRE.** This wide **DIFFERENCE WAS ALL IN THE SEED.** The land and metehods being identical. **THE EXPENSE** of **GROWING** was the **SAME.** The best **SEED** and **VARIETIES** produced **FULLY FOUR TIMES AS MUCH CORN** of **BETTER QUALITY** than did the **INFERIOR LOTS OF CORN.**

It Costs Less Than 50 Cents an Acre to Use Our Carefully Selected SEED CORN.

SEED CORN

Is It Wise to Risk Doubtful Corn When GOOD SEED is So Cheap?

BREEDING and growing of Seed Corn is no new experiment with us. We have been growing Seed Corn for the past fifty years. Were the pioneers in agitating and introducing better seed varieties before others in Iowa even thought of such a thing as breeding corn. It is true, others may and do make all sorts of claims along this line, but we want to recall that not one of them can show a line of advertisement or a word printed in any publication relating to the improvement of Seed Corn for ten years or more after our first article and advertisements appeared in the **IOWA HOMESTEAD, PRAIRIE FARMER** and **COLEMAN'S RURAL WORLD.**

To plant our thoroughbred, inherited Seed Corn will cost you but 35 to 50 cents per acre, freight charges included. It is therefore evident that if it produces but one bushel more per acre than old run-out sorts it will more than pay the expense of the seed. And if you obtatin 20 to 40 bushels increased yield per acre there is more profit for the money invested, ten times over, than any stock breeder ever realized or thought of on his $2,000 imported horses or thoroughbred bulls.

It costs more to prepare and grow a crop of corn for seed purposes than the ordinary farmer can understand. It requires extra choice stock; special preparation of land and special cultivation, harvesting, gathering, selecting, sorting, nub and tipping, shelling, sacking, etc., etc.

SHIPPING:—In this department everything that is quoted by the pound is sent by mail postpaid; all larger quantities, unless noted, are sent by freight or express at expense of purchaser. Prices named include bags free. If you want a few pounds of some particular variety to be put up in a package by itself and placed in a bag that is going by freight or express, you may deduct 8 cents per pound from the prepaid mail price.

About Warranting. We thoroughly test all our seeds and nothing is sent out which we do not believe to be good in every respect. However, we give no warranty, expressed or implied, as to description, quality, productiveness or any other matter of seeds we send out, and will not be in any way responsible for the crop. If purchaser does not accept the seeds on these terms, they are to be returned inside of 10 days. We know of no responsible seed firm in the world who guarantees seeds any further or as far as this.

We are headquarters for Seed Corn in the United States, and in addition to our large mail order trade, which extends to every state in the Union where corn is grown, and in many of them to every county in them, we do a large wholesale trade, supplying many of the largest and best seed houses and dealers with their Seed Corn in carload lots or less; north, south, east and west.

At the end of each year we send out thousands of letters to our customers in different states and localities to ascertain their experience and results from different varieties and on different kinds of soil, and thus we are often able to materially help and assist prospective customers in making selection of such varieties as are best suited to their climate, soil and seasons. This wide experience is at the command of our customers and we will gladly give any and all of them the benefit of it when requested.

Detroit, Michigan, April 4.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa.

Gentlemen: I wish to report results from the one-half bushel Diamond Joe's Big White seed corn I got from you last year. With this seed I planted three acres on old land which had not been fertilized for seven years, and that had grown one crop of corn since it was broken up. Notwithstanding this I grew and obtained a trifle over **THREE HUNDRED BUSHELS** from this **THREE ACRES OF LAND,** altho we had one of the worst drouths here ever known in this section. This corn was planted May 15th and was harvested October 1st.

Very truly yours, CHARLES C. SCHNEIDER.

Seed corn I got from you made best crop in this or any the adjoining townships—M. D. Omalley, Nekomis, Ill.

I planted some of Ratekin's Iowa grown seed corn last spring on sandy loam soil; cultivated in the ordinary manner, and found it not only three to four weeks ahead of our native sorts, but also a very prolific corn. In short, I am well pleased and can fully recommend it to our farmers and planters.—J. A. OVERSTREET, DeKalb, Miss., Oct. 10, '09.

I planted some of your Diamond Joe's Big White last spring and am pleased to say it made me a yield of 70 bushels per acre.—D. A. MEARS, Onargo, Ill., Dec. 1, 1909.

I want you to know that the "Diamond Joe's Big White" seed corn I got from you last spring made me a splendid crop.—W. R. DUNN, Polk Co., Iowa, Nov. 1, 1909.

I write to say that the "Diamond Joe's Big White" seed corn I got from you last spring made me the finest crop I ever grew. I was at the Illinois State Fair and am confident I can show as good or better corn than any on exhibition there. In fact, I found all the seeds I ordered from you of best quality and just as recommended.—CHARLES RASMUSSEN, Bureau Co., Ill., Nov. 1, 1909.

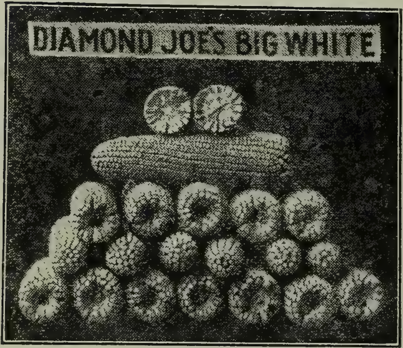
I want to let you know that the half bushel of "Diamond Joe's Big White" seed corn I got from you last spring made me a yield of 170 bushels per acre. I think this pretty good for this state. If any one can beat it I should like to hear from him and where his corn was grown; what kind or sort it was.—HERMAN OLMINKHOF, Ottawa Co., Mich., Jan. 4, 1909.

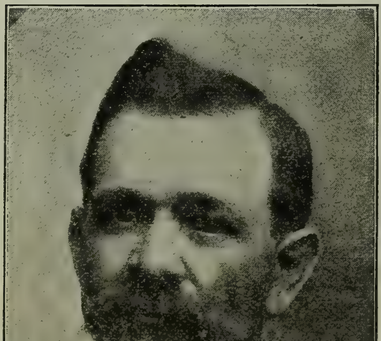
The "Diamond Joe's Big White" seed corn I ordered from you last year gave exceptional and splendid results; every stalk producing one and many of them two good ears, thus very materially increasing the yield over other sorts. Inclosed find my order for various kinds of seed for the coming season.—J. D. VINES, Hackleburg, Ala., Jan. 23.

DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE

THE BIG WHITE CORN THAT HAS CAPTIVATED THE ENTIRE CORN WORLD. (ORIGINATED AND INTRODUCED BY RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE IN 1905)

A. W. Butler's Premium Crop: 132½ Bu. Per Acre.





MR. A. W. BUTLER,
Plymouth Co., Mass.

DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE

Page County, Iowa, 22x24 miles square, produces more Indian Corn than all the New England States combined, as shown by the United States census reports, but Diamond Joe's Big White grows big crops there as well as here in Page County, Iowa.

Ratekin Seed House,
Shenandoah, Iowa.

Plymouth Co., Mass.,
Dec. 26th, 1909.

It is with no small degree of pleasure that I write you to say I won first prize of $100.00 in gold for the production of the largest yield and most bushels of corn on one acre of ground in a contest open to all the New England states. I won this prize on your Diamond Joe's Big White. It made 132½ bushels sound, solid shelled corn per acre. Does that interest you? Kindly send me your 1910 catalog as soon as in print. Have you a good big yellow corn as early and as good as your Diamond Joe? If so, I want to try it. Very truly yours,

A. Webster Butler.

Burt Co., Neb., Feb. 24, 1910.
I bought some of your Diamond Joe's Big White two years ago and found it the best corn I have ever grown or seen. I shall want five bushels of same seed corn this year. Send me your 1910 catalog. Yours truly,

D. F. Hogan.

Buchanan Co., Mo.,
Feb. 23, 1910.
Two years ago I ordered some of your Diamond Joe's Big White Seed Corn, and found it the best all purpose variety of corn I ever saw. I shall send you an order for seeds in a few days.

W. F. Morris.

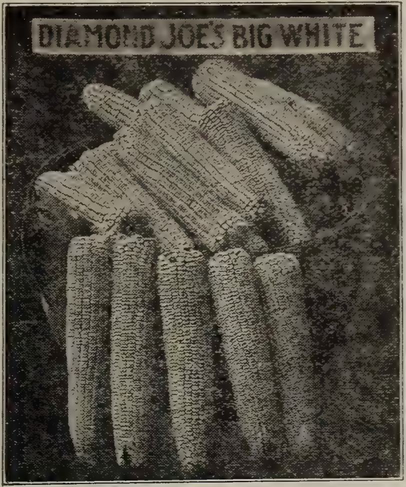
Hancock Co., Ohio,
Nov. 8, 1909.
Last spring I ordered some seeds from you, including some of Diamond Joe's Big White seed corn, and am especially well pleased, as also with your Pride of Nishna, yellow.

Clois Spittler.

This photograph shows the great prize crop of corn winning first prize of $100, in our contest for 1909, and the man who grew it, Mr. A. W. Butler, Plymouth Co., Mass. Yield on Stockbridge alone, 132½ bushels shelled corn on one acre of land.

The Earliest Big Eared White Corn in the World

FRANK STEMETS,
St. Joe, Ind.



Grown by Frank Stemets.

THE BEST IN THE WORLD

As related on preceding pages, we grow our Seed Corn, under special contract with the best corn growing farmers, and have made this branch of our business our great specialty during the past **TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS**, and back of that, many previous years' experience on the farm, and made corn growing our chief product. In all these years we have appreciated what the ordinary farmer was most interested in: a variety of corn that would give him the most bushels of good, sound, solid corn per acre in the shortest length of time. To this end we have been striving for years, and it was six years ago, 1905, that we first introduced Diamond Joe's Big White, feeling confident this new variety combined all the essential points above named. Since then thousands of farmers have tried and tested it and everywhere "it has made good." In short, it is adapted to a wider range of conditions, seasons, climate and soil than any field variety of corn that has ever been introduced. It is a vigorous grower; of great vitality to withstand the varied conditions contingent to the growing successfully of a good corn crop. It is not only especially adapted to old, poor, thin and ridge land, but will give corresponding good results and yield on the strongest, rich or bottom land. In fact, it would astonish you to read the reports and letters that come to us with regard to the wonderful yields this corn has made everywhere. In short, if these reports are to be believed, **DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE** is incomparable with any other white corn in existence.

DESCRIPTION:—Stalks are strong and robust; grow to a height of seven to ten and twelve feet (dependent upon the land); very deep, heavy roots, thus being a great drouth resister; very broad blades and many of them. Ears usually set about midway of the stalk; very deep grains from 16 to 22 rows (usually about 18), solidly set on white cob. This corn has been carefully bred and every stalk produces from one to two, and sometimes three, good ears. Ears run from 8 to 12 inches in length, and circumference of 7 to 9 inches, dependent upon size and length of ear; ears very uniform in size and shape, each one resembling all others, thus showing its perfect breeding. In connection with all its virtues and redeeming qualities, it is **THE EARLIEST MATURING, BIG-EARED WHITE CORN IN THE WORLD.** It matures everywhere from central Minnesota to the Gulf Coast States in 80 to 100 days, dependent on locality weather conditions at planting time and season of the year. Mr. Farmer and Corn Grower, don't fail to order and plant your entire crop of this corn. I venture my honor and believe it will not disappoint your best expectations.

PRICE: One ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 70c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant one acre), $1.25; postpaid by mail or by express to any place in the United States. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: 1 pk., 90c; half bu., $1.60; 1 bu., $2.25; 2 bu., $4.50; 5 bu. and over, $2.00 per bushel. Bags included, f. o. b. here. If wanted in the ear, boxed, add 75c per bushel to the foregoing prices.

Figure It Out Yourself

It costs but 50c per acre, freight included, for enough **DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE** or **RATEKIN'S GOLDEN YELLOW DENT** seed corn to plant 50 acres; either of these varieties will make you a yield of 4,000 to 5,000 bushels. Fifty acres planted to common varieties will make you 1,500 to 2,000 bushels. Here is a difference of 2,500 to 3,500 bushels or less than **A CENT PER BUSHEL FOR THE INCREASED YIELD**, or more than a hundred times the cost of the seed; for an increased yield of 3,000 bushels at 60 cents per bushel, present current price, would be equal to $1,800.00. Figure it out for yourself, then wake up. Now is the time to get into the band wagon. The opportunity to get some of this wonderful corn is at hand. We want you to try it. We want you to contest for a premium. It's the corn to bank on. It's the corn to plant your entire crop with. Drop your scrub corn and get 5, 10 or 20 bushels this season. Send early; send to-day, then you will have it at hand when ready to plant.

DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE

SEED CORN, 153 BUSHELS PER ACRE

The Earliest Big White Corn in the World. (Select Ears)

Ratekin's Golden Yellow Dent

World's Greatest Yielding Yellow Dent Seed Corn

RATEKIN'S YELLOW DENT, is the **WORLD'S GREATEST YIELDING** Yellow Corn. Has no barren stalks. Every stalk produces one to two good ears. It's early to mature. It's the best cattle corn there is grown. It's the best all-round yellow corn in existence. We know what it is, therefore pin our faith to it. Scores and hundreds of our customers report yields of 80, 90, 100 and as high as a hundred and twenty-five bushels per acre. Don't hesitate to plant your entire crop to this variety. It will pay you big. An increased yield of only one bushel per acre will more than pay for the seed it takes to plant the ground. Be sure and get some of this stock. It will please and profit you. It's a money maker to every farmer who plants it.

Ratekin's Golden Yellow Dent

Continued from page 17.

RATEKIN'S GOLDEN YELLOW DENT: This is strictly a new variety of corn. As its name implies, it is a golden yellow dent, the result of a cross between two of the highest and best bred varieties of yellow corn we have ever been able to find and was started eight years ago from a typical ear of yellow corn sent us by one of the most prominent corn growers in the State of Indiana, and another ear from our **Pride of the Nishna.** Since that time, year after year we have exercised the utmost care in the selection and breeding of this corn, always following the parent ears from the start until the type and character of this corn became well established. The ears all run very uniform in size and shape, showing it to be a very true bred variety; ears run from 11 to 12 inches in length and from 7 to 8 inches in circumference and are well filled out at butt and tip ends, each ear containing from 16 to 22 rows of kernels, deeply and solidly set on a medium small red cob. The stalk is strong, robust and vigorous, growing from 8 to 12 feet in height, dependent on the ground where planted; broad blades and very heavy foliage, and in addition to being one of the largest yielders of grain it also makes an elegant combination for ensilage, fodder and big yields of good, sound, early, well-matured corn.

EARLY MATURITY: In the breeding and propogating this new variety of corn we have kept uppermost in mind a large eared, early maturing variety; a variety that would make itself within from 90 to 110 days anwhere. In short, we regard this variety of yellow corn the full counterpart of our **DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE,** and contains every point of excellence it does, the only difference being, one is white and the other a golden yellow. Don't fail to plant liberally of this corn. It will not disappoint your best expectations.

PRICE: One ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 70c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant one acre), $1.25; postpaid by mail or by express to any postoffice in the United States. By freight or express at purcheser's expense: 1 pk., 90c; half bu., $1.60; 1 bu., $2.25; 2 bu., $4.50; 5 bu. and over, $2.00 per bu. Bags included, f. o. b. here. If wanted in the ear, boxed, add 75c per bushel to the foregoing prices.

Upton, Wyoming, 9-19-1910.

I feel just like I must tell you about my Diamond Joe's Big White Seed Corn I got from you last spring. I wish you could see it, it is the talk of the entire neighborhood, altho we have had one of the worst drouths this year, old settlers say, that has occurred in 25 years. We are poor, but have 320 acres of land and are trying to get a start and a home, and next year we are going to plant and trust to Diamond Joe's Big White to bring us through. My husband says, "tell you that you could depend upon us sending you an order for what seed we shall want for another year."

Very truly yours,
Mrs. Frank Fisher.

Jefferson Parish, La., Sept. 22d, 1910.

Allow me just a word to say the Seed Corn sent me is the biggest and best, as well as the earliest to mature, that I ever saw, and I have been growing corn now for the past fifteen years. Among other varieties ordered from you (4 bushels in all), I got one sample ear of Diamond Joe's Big White, which made me five hundred and twenty-two ears of the finest, largest ears I ever saw. I shall want more of your Seed Corn another year, and you will hear from me in good time for shipping the same.

Yours very truly,
Domnick Pittari.

Whitlow, Arkansas, Sept. 29th, 1910.

I wrote you sometime ago, requesting your seed wheat catalog, but have never received it. Kindly send it to me at once. My Seed Corn purchased of you last spring has done very fine, especially the Iowa Silver Mine, and the Garden Seeds, but now I want seed wheat, so send me your wheat catalog.

Very truly yours,
J. A. Lindsey.

Curoe, Tenn., Sept. 18th, 1910.

I am pleased to write you and to say the Diamond Joe's Big White Seed Corn I got from you has done fine and that I am greatly pleased with it. I now write you for your winter seed wheat catalog and to request that you send me samples of each variety and tell me which of them is best adapted to this climate, seasons and soil.

Truly yours,
R. L. Gilliam.

Carey, Ohio, Sept. 30th, 1910.

I write to tell you I have received the seed wheat ordered from you and that it is now in the ground. I was well pleased with it both in quality and quantity, and will be pleased to tell you more about it when my crop is made. Thanking you for promptness in matter of shipment and for hurrying it through, I am,

Yours very truly,
Mrs. James Cross.

Pleasant Hill, Mo., Sept. 20th, 1910.

Wheat ordered from you is here all O. K. and is better than I expected; found it just as good as sample; am sowing it to-day.

D. A. Alexander.

Almadane, La., Sept. 1st, 1910.

I have tried seeds from a number of seed houses, but have found your seeds the best I have ever yet tried.

Truly yours,
James E. Walker.

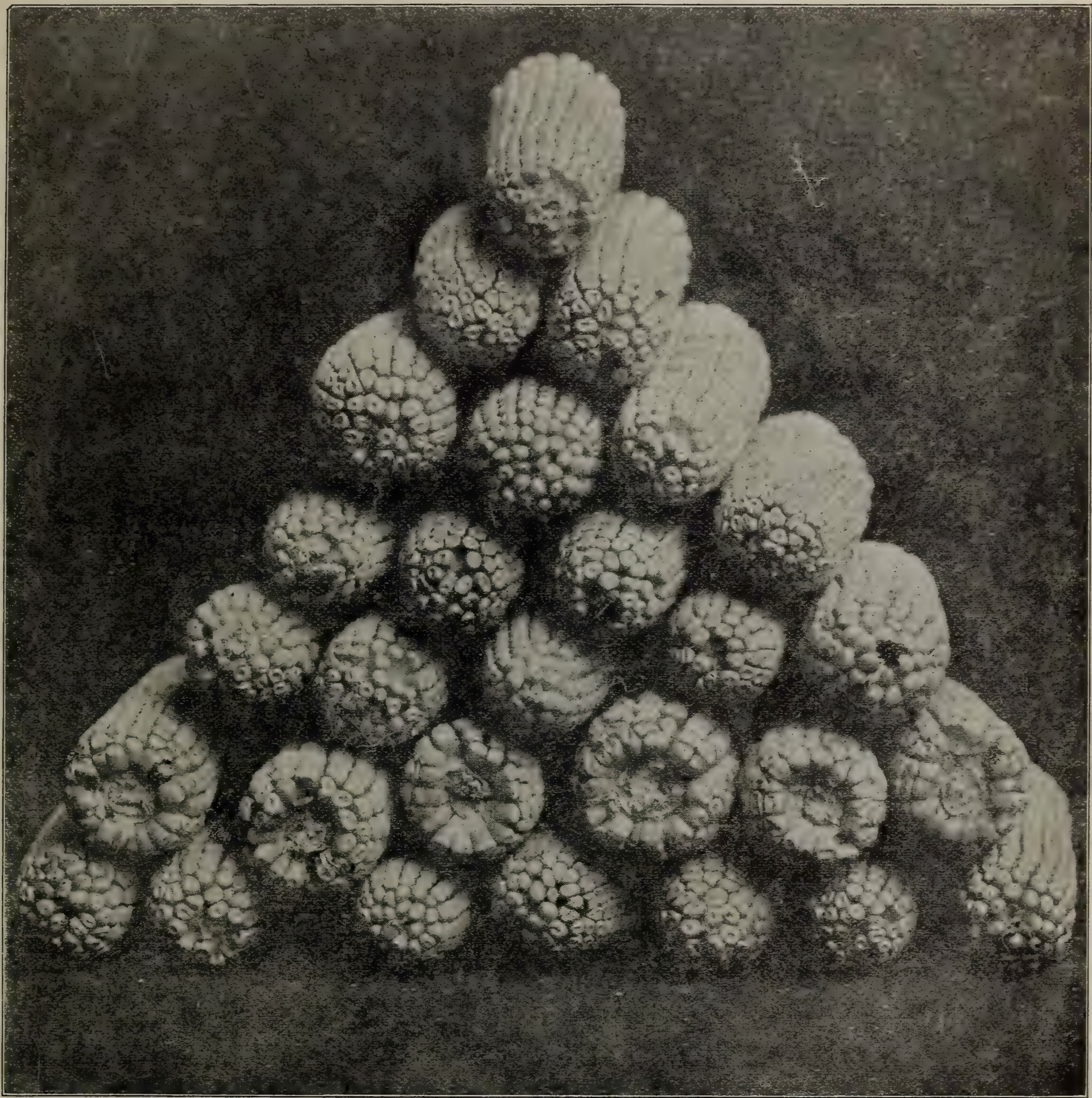
Kerby, Ohio, Sept. 17th, 1910.

Seeds ordered from you have been received and wish to thank you for promptness. Am well pleased, and will remember you again when in want of anything in the seed line.

Wm. Mahle.

Ratekin's Iowa Silver Mine White Corn

THE GREATEST RECORD OF ANY WHITE CORN IN THE WORLD



IT IS AN ABSOLUTE FACT THAT "RATEKIN'S IOWA SILVER MINE" has made the greatest record of any white corn on earth and has captivated the hearts of the corn growing farmers throughout the whole world.

ITS PRIZE RECORD.—Everywhere the Iowa Silver Mine captures the prizes over all other varieties. At one fair ten of the largest ears took first prize. Afterward the same ten ears took sweepstakes over all other varieties, both white and yellow, making a total of $95.00 in prizes taken at one fair. It also captured first premium at the Illinois State Fair for best bushel of corn, any color or sort; first for best white corn in the state, and **GRAND SWEEPSTAKES FOR THE BEST CORN OF ANY COLOR,** competition open to the world. In 1899 the Illinois State Agricultural Society offered three large prizes for the largest yield of corn grown on one acre, and the **IOWA SILVER MINE CAPTURED ALL THREE OF THEM WITH CROPS OF 196, 176 AND 154 BUSHELS PER ACRE.** In addition to this, in a prize contest of $500.00, it produced 215 bushels per acre in Scott County, Iowa; 211 bushels per acre in Indiana; 201 bushels per acre in Arkansas; 178 bushels per acre in Illinois; 145 bushels per acre in Nebraska; 144 bushels per acre in Ohio; 137 bushels per acre in Texas.

"RATEKIN'S IOWA SILVER MINE" corn has been carefully bred by us for the past twelve years with two essential points in view, **EARLY MATURITY AND HIGH YIELD.** In Ratekin's Iowa Silver Mine we have not sought to increase the size of ear so much, but to increase the average number of ears per stalk, and have absolutely eliminated our seed crops from all barren and weakly stalks.

(Continued next page.)

Ratekin's Iowa Silver Mine White Corn

THE GREATEST RECORD OF ANY WHITE CORN IN THE WORLD

(Continued from page 19)

"RATEKIN'S IOWA SILVER MINE" is as near drouth resisting as any variety ever produced and being of extreme vitality will do better on old, poor or hill land than any variety in existence. We offer this corn to the Eastern farmer as one of the very best for feeding and for ensilage purposes. In the Southern States, where we have sold and sent tens of thousands of bushels during the past ten years, it has proven the great salvation to the country, and where we were selling only a few bushels here and there ten or twelve years ago, we are now selling in car load lots to seed houses and dealers all over the South, including Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and Georgia, from which points we do a large retail trade in North and South Carolina and Virginia. **"RATEKIN'S IOWA SILVER MINE" IS A WHITE CORN** and analysis shows a variation so slight that it could not affect the feeding or cereal qualities or in any way change its value. As every one knows white corn is used in more than a thousand forms for cereal foods and the price paid for white corn is always better by two to five cents per bushel on the markets than for yellow corn.

In all of our twenty-seven years' experience growing and handling seed corn we have never been able to find a yellow corn that for general crop purposes, including its feeding value, its extraordinary yield and strength of vitality to resist all unfavorable conditions encountered in the cultivation and growth of a corn crop, the equal of our **Iowa Silver Mine**, white, except **"RATEKIN'S PRIDE OF NISHNA,"** yellow. We have sold and sent it to every State in the Union where corn is grown and have thousands of unsolicited testimonials from our customers recommending it as the best all round yellow corn for general field crop in the world.

PRICE: Postage by mail, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), $1.00: By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Pk., 50c; half bu., 90c; 1 bu. to 5 bu., $1.60; 6 to 10 bu. and over, $1.50 per bu. Bags free on board cars here. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices. (5 bu. lots at 10 bu. prices.)

What Farmers and Planters Say. Thousands of Others Tell The Same Story About Ratekin's Seed Corn

TWENTY-SEVEN BUSHELS MORE PER ACRE.

Ratekin's Seed House. Du Paige County, Ill., Dec. 1.

Gentlemen:—I should have written before with regard to results from seed corn, **"Pride of Nishna"** and **"Iowa Silver Mine,"** obtained from you last spring, but have waited until I was through gathering, in order that I might write intelligently. I am now done. To commence, would say: I planted about May 25th; obtained an excellent stand; cultivation ordinary good. Corn matured soundly before frost; ready for cribbing early in October; yield from actual measurement of ground and corn. **"Pride of Nishna" 72 BUSHELS PER ACRE. "Silver Mine"** was good, but yield not quite up to **"Pride of Nishna."** Character and quality of each was indeed fine. Both were a success for me. We held a "Harvest Home" exhibition here this fall. I exhibited samples of each variety and am pleased to say that I was **awarded first prize on both varieties**, and there was a large number of exhibits, as well as sharp competition. My ground was not of the best, and other common sorts planted side by side with your corn made but 45 bushels per acre, all under like conditions—a difference of 27 bushels per acre, or over one-third in favor of crop from your seed. I am well pleased and have booked quite a number of orders for seed for next spring. It's the best and beats anything ever before grown here.

Yours truly, M. F. Oldfield.

Piatt County, Ill., Oct. 20, 1910.

In the spring of 1908 I got seed enough of your **"Iowa Silver Mine"** to plant four acres. From this I husked 280 bushels or 70 bushels shelled corn per acre. From my own seed (a choice variety) I got but 56 bushels per acre under same conditions, a difference in average yield of 14 bushels per acre.

Very truly yours, D. O. Gifford.

Rock County, Wis., Nov. 1.

I planted the **"Pride of Nishna"** and **"Iowa Silver Mine"** seed corn I ordered and received from you last spring, from May 18th to 23d, with a two horse check row planter, on black, sandy land, and obtained a perfect stand, not a hill or stalk missing, plowed four times with two horse cultivator; it matured finely, and I have husked the **"Pride of Nishna,"** it yielding good seventy-five bushels per acre. I think the **"Silver Mine"** even better, each making a full third more per acre than our native sorts. It's the best corn I have ever seen grow in the State of Wisconsin.

Yours very truly, O. J. Lunn.

Baraboo, Sauk County, Wis., Oct. 27.

The seed corn I got from you last spring proved all right. Planted May 19th, cultivated shallow four times, making a splendid crop.

Respectfully, Wm. Saxe.

Holmes County, Miss, Aug. 16.

Gentlemen:—The seed corn I bought of you is a perfect success, over 50 per cent. of it being made now, every stalk having two good ears. I want your seed corn next season and will place my order earlier.

Very truly, J. R. Garnett.

Wilson County, Tenn., March 11, 1909.

I have just received your 1909 catalog, which reminds me to say, I planted a part of my crop to your **"Iowa Silver Mine"** white corn last year, and as a result find that if my entire crop had been planted from it I would have had three times as much corn per acre as I got from our best native sorts. In short, I found it everything you claim for it.

John W. Wilson.

Moreland, La., Oct. 23, 1909.

I am in the mercantile business, although I plant corn every year, and want to say the seed corn I purchased from you last spring gave better results and satisfaction than any corn I ever planted.

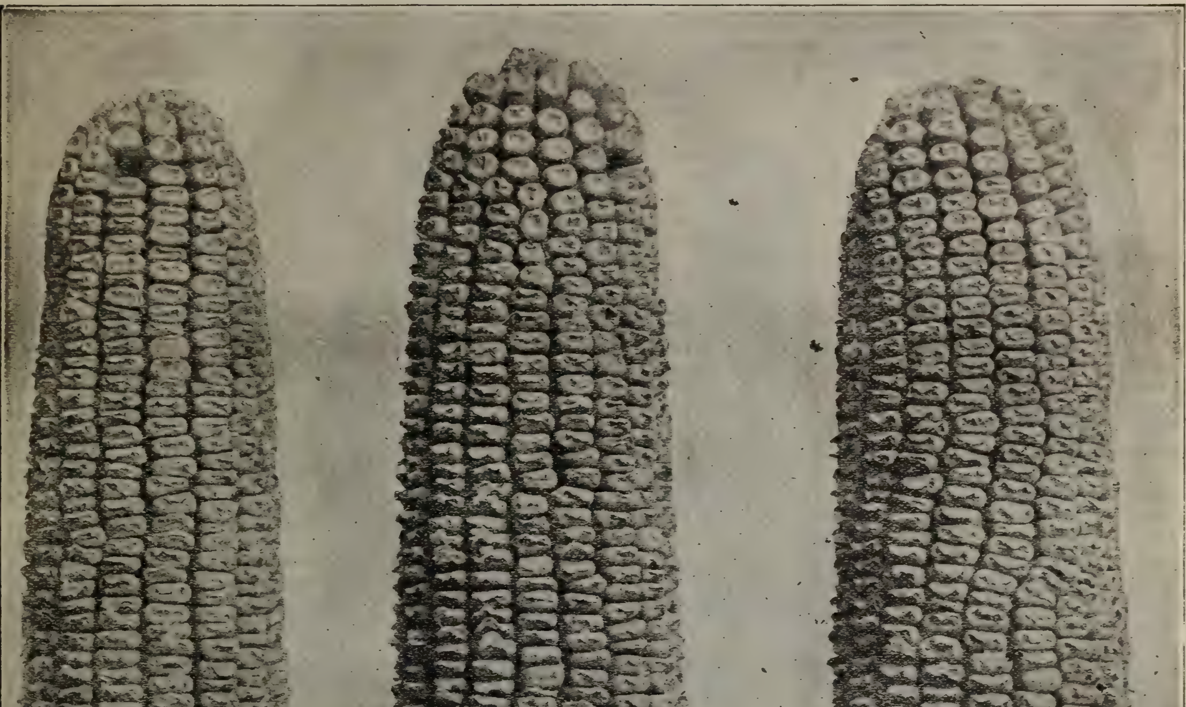
Very truly yours, M. H. Titus.

I. H. PITTS & SON,
Merchants and Cotton Buyers.
Waverly Hall, Ga., Sept. 1.

"Ratekin's Iowa Silver Mine" seed corn has come to the front and "made good." Those who tried it this season are well pleased; it came through flying. We are so well pleased we will, I think, be able to handle much more of this seed another year than we did the past one. We shall be glad to hear from you as soon as convenient.

Very truly yours,
I. C. Pitts & Son.

Ratekin's Pride of Nishna



The Standard of Perfection

We feel it hardly necessary for us to go into an extended description of this "famous" variety of corn. It was the first variety of yellow corn originated by us more than fifty years ago, when we lived on a farm, and was introduced by us more than a quarter of a century ago. During all the years since we began the origination and improvement of this corn we have constantly planted our seed stock in plots separate and alone, and have tried to improve its inherent qualities from year to year. We have gone through our plots year after year, removing all weakly stalks and ridding it from stalks that showed a barrenness, thus bringing it up in these essentials until we believe it now stands without a rival, pre-eminently ahead and above any yellow corn grown for general crop purposes, including its feeding value, its extraordinary yield, and strength of vitality to resist all conditions encountered in the cultivation and growth of a corn crop.

Ratekin's Pride of Nishna—(Continued)

Having originated this grand variety of corn more than fifty years ago, and having sold it and sent it to every State in the Union where corn is grown, during the past quarter of a century, including every county in the State of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri, and also every county in Nebraska and Kansas where corn is grown. During the same time we have sent thousands of bushels to the Eastern and Southern States, including Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Indian Territy, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky, and everywhere it has been found well adapted to climatic conditions and soil and has proved the largest yielder, the earliest to mature and the most certain and uniform good cropper in every respect. In short, we have more than fifty thousand letters and unsolicited testimonials from our customers, testifying to, and extolling it as the best and surest cropper in existence, and recommending it as the best all round yellow corn for general field crop in the world. This corn, like all other varieties, grows best on rich land. It is here that it attains its highest perfection and produces heaviest yields, often making 90 to 100 bushels per acre on good soil carefully managed.

DESCRIPTION.—The ears of this variety are very uniform in size and shape, cylindrical from butt to tip, running from 9 to 12 inches in length and 7 to 8 inches in circumference, containing from 16 to 24 rows (usually about 18) of deep kernels solidly set on a medium small red cob, shelling 86 to 88 per cent. grains, and often even more. A wagon load of this corn weighs out three to four bushels more than ordinary varieties of corn, proving its solidity. It is of a golden yellow, and a big crib full is a beautiful sight to behold. The stalks grow from 8 to 12 feet high, dependent on the character of the land, whether hill or bottom land, and are strong and robust, always standing up well. The strong, deep roots give it strength and vitality to withstand drouth and other unfavorable conditions. Its potency or power of reproduction is so great that neither dry nor wet weather affect or influence its growth and maturity as it does other sorts, and, by careful selection, elimination of all barren stalks, has materially increased its yielding qualities. It is the earliest large-eared corn in the world to mature, making itself beyond danger of frost in 95 to 100 days. In conclusion, we have bred this corn up in oil and proteid until it approaches a balanced ration. If you are a feeder you will find no corn that will give you more fat and flesh than "Pride of Nishna." If you market your crops you will not be able to find any variety that will give you more bushels of good, sound, solid corn per acre. We know whereof we speak when we give you this advice. No corn grower will make a mistake if he plants "Pride of Nishna."

PRICE: Postpaid, by mail: Sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), $1.00. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Pk. 60c; half. bu., 90c; 1 bu. to 5 bu., $1.60; 6 to 10 bu. and over, $1.50 per bu. Bags free, on board cars here. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices. (5 bu. lots and over at 10 bu. prices.)

Carroll Co., Iowa, March 12, 1910: My **Pride of Nishna** grew a splendid crop last year, making an average yield of seventy-five bushels shelled corn per acre. GEORGE E. JACOBS.

Tama County, Iowa, Sept. 30, 1909: I ordered some your **Pride of Nishna** seed corn three years ago and some your **Iowa Silver Mine** last spring and have sixty-five acres of these two varieties, and the finest and best corn anywhere about here. It is estimated by good judges that it will make an average yield of 90 to 100 bushels per acre; ears large and perfectly developed. Very truly yours, MRS. L. E. WEBSTER.

Brown Co., Ohio, Oct. 8.

Ratekin's Seed House: I did not get to plant my **Pride of Nishna** seed corn I got from you until the 27th of May, then the cut worms worked on it very badly and was compelled to replant with same corn; planted the last time June 14th. My neighbors laughed at me and said it would never ripen before frost, but it did, and I never saw such corn as it is. I am confident it will husk out 150 bushels per acre. I picked out two ears to-day that weighed 4½ lbs. The season was very dry—had no rain for 43 days, very unusual for this country, but my corn did not wilt as our native sorts did, in fact, some of it simply fried out. Tell my brother farmers for me if they want the best corn in the world to plant his crops to **Pride of Nishna**. With best wishes, I am,

Yours very truly, C. S. ROYCE.

"Pride of Nishna" planted May 25th; find it the soundest, solidest corn I have; best and most perfect ears of all running, 8 to 11 inches long, well filled out at both ends. It's just what I have been looking for for five or six years.

G. W. LOVE, Randolph County, Illinois.

The seed corn came to hand promptly and I thank you for the way you do business. I also received your letter with remittance and refund on overpayment, which was very much unexpected, but must say it gives me pleasure to do business with people like you. I want to try some of your New Malakoff wheat this fall.

L. D. PRICE, Wakarusa, Ind., May 9, '09.

I bought $75.00 worth of seeds from you two years ago and am pleased to state that I grew the finest crop of corn from your **"Pride of Nishna,"** yellow, that was ever raised in this part of the country. Not only this but I brought to this town the finest load of ears of corn that ever come to this place before or since.

J. W. STAATS, Nowata, Okla., Feb. 26, '09.

The **Pride of Nishna** seed corn I got from you last spring was planted from the 12th to the 19th of May and I got a perfect stand, it growing almost to a grain and made me a splendid crop, although we had a very severe drouth in this part of Missouri the latter part of July and through August, and my **Pride of Nishna** was the only corn in this locality that did not dry up. It was the talk of the entire neighborhood as being the best corn in the country. I consider if I had paid $10.00 per bushel for this seed it would have been a very profitable investment.

Very truly yours,
S. S. TERRELL, Benton Co., Mo., Nov. 15, 1909.

Ratekin's Seed House: My corn crop is matured, everybody says they have never seen such corn before. The spring was very wet and I planted my first planting the middle of June; the second the last of the month, and the third or last July 11th. The first is now dry enough to grind like old corn. Some of my neighbors estimate the yield of my crop at 75 bushels per acre, where I heretofore only got 30 to 40 bushels. In short, my crop is simply immense as compared with crops from our native sorts. Kindly send me your 1909 seed catalog as soon as it is printed—will want more seeds the coming year. Very truly yours,

(PROF.) T. R. SCOTT, Ballard Co., Ky., Nov. 8.

I planted Ratekin's Iowa grown seed corn last year and it made very fine for me in both yield and quality and was fully four weeks earlier to mature than any of our native sorts.

R. DICKINSON, Gulza, La., Oct. 6, 1909.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa—Gentlemen: Ratekin's seed corn has given splendid satisfaction on my place and I take pleasure in recommending it to our Southern farmers and planters. It's the sure thing for the South.

T. L. SORRELLS, Clarks, La., Oct. 8.

I have been selling Ratekin's Iowa grown seed corn for a number of years and find it has given the very best of results and satisfaction. It never fails to make a good crop with proper planting and cultivation; besides it matures fully four weeks ahead of native sorts. I can fully recommend it to farmers and planters of Louisiana.

G. C. LEWIS, Atlanta, La.

I want some seed corn. I have always got good seed from you; ship me two bushels each of your **Iowa Silver Mine** and **Pride of Nishna**. I have not had your catalog, and do not know the price. Planting time is at hand, please ship seed and I will mail you check for same.

WAYNE HORTON, Randolph Co., Mo.

WALLACE'S FAVORITE

THE GIANT WHITE CORN OF IOWA

We catalogued this excellent new variety of corn for the first time in 1909, and at that time anticipated a great future for it, and now that its wonderful qualities have been demonstrated by many hundreds and thousands of farmers who have planted, tried and tested it for the first time. In our twenty-seven years' experience in breeding and growing seed corn as a specialty there has been no season but we have had scores and hundreds of samples sent to us from everywhere with the request that we try them on our experimental grounds. We greatly appreciate these favors, although it has been utterly impossible to make a fair trial of all of them, but each year we have tried many sorts and have tried to test out their merits, as it has ever been our aim to grow only the best varieties, and such sorts as could be depended upon to meet the requirements of our trade and customers; the farmer who grows corn for the profit.

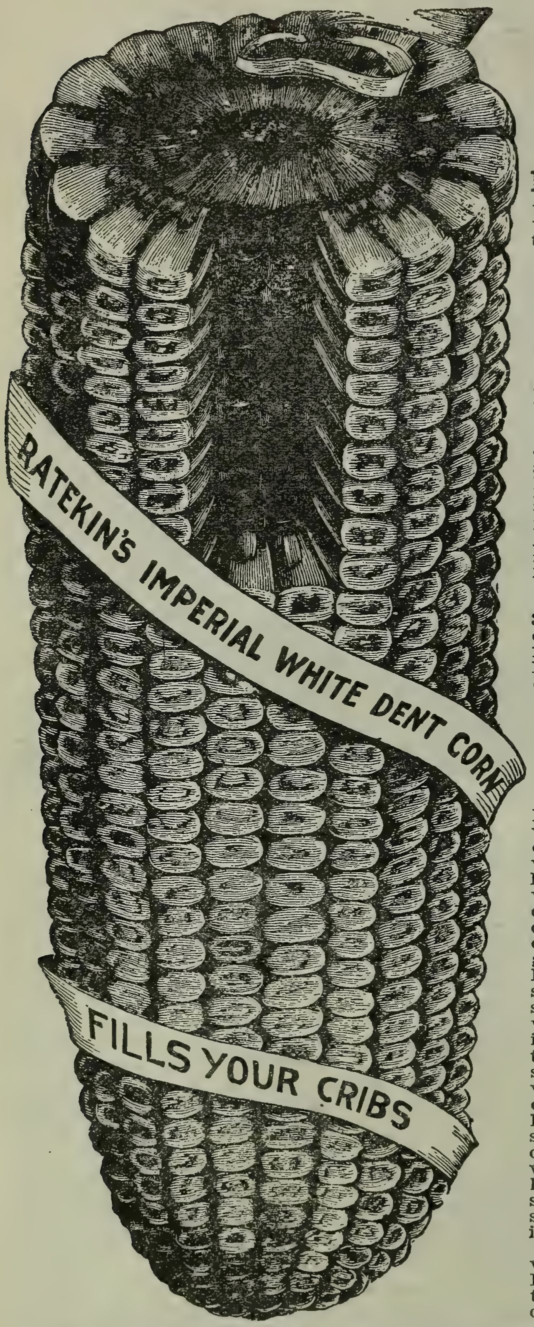
In Wallace's Favorite we have found a very superior variety of corn and one that has gained favor by those farmers who have tried it everywhere. While we do not claim for it that it will make two, three or four hundred bushels per acre as is claimed by certain seedsmen for some of their corn, we do know it can be relied upon to yield as many bushels of good, sound, solid, well matured corn per acre, inside of 100 to 110 days as any variety of corn to be found in the world, and if planted on good strong ground will yield from 90 to 125 bushels per acre and even more under perfect conditions.

DESCRIPTION.—The stalk is a most robust one, usually growing from 8 to 10 feet high, with long broad leaves extending from joints which are close together and always producing one to three ears to the stalk, running from 8 to 12 inches long, with 16 to 20 rows of very deeply set grains on a pure white cob, and is one of the clearest white varieties grown. We believe this corn will undoubtedly prove a prize winner wherever planted, as it always gives a tremendous yield. Just think of a field of corn laden down with an average of two good ears to the stalk. Surely this corn will not dissapoint your best expectations in any respect and we want every farmer who plants corn the coming season to try it no matter where you live, east, west, north or south. It is not only good for the grain it grows, but cannot help being one of the best combination varieties for grain and ensilage purposes in existence and for a genuine corn for all purposes it will sure please you.

A Word About Ordering Seed Now

Our stock of this seed is limited this year, as it was last, having less than 6,000 bushels, and for this reason we hope you will send your order in early and by all means secure some of this spendid variety of corn before our stock is exhausted. If, however, you should not order as early as you ought to, and it is all gone, we will promptly return your money except you desire to make a second choice or leave it to us to choose for you, in which event we will be guided by your instructions.

PRICE: 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 75c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant an acre), $1.25, postage prepaid or express prepaid to any point in the United States. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, $1.00; half bu., $1.75; 1 bu., $3.25; 2 bus., $6.25; 5 bus. and over, $3.00 per bu.; bags free, f. o. b. here.

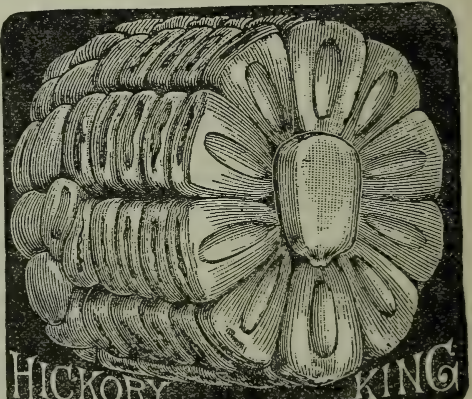

RATEKIN'S IMPERIAL WHITE DENT CORN
FILLS YOUR CRIBS

Ratekin's Imperial White

RATEKIN'S IMPERIAL WHITE. We regard this splendid variety of corn as one of our most valuable acquisitions. It was obtained by us from an old German farmer who brought the seed from Illinois, and was first introduced by us over ten years ago, since which time we have sold and sent out thousands of bushels of it, and it has proven a great favorite with all who have tried it. It is pure white corn, with red cob—a sign within itself of great vitality; ears run from 9 to 12 inches long, measuring from 7 to 8 inches in circumference; 16 to 24 rows of very deep grains firmly set on a small red cob, as shown by the accompanying illustration. The stalks are rather short and heavy, averaging from 7 to 10 feet in height, with a large amount of foliage. This corn does well anywhere and everywhere and is especially adapted to old, poor and thin land, and will make a good crop where other sorts fail. It is also especially well adapted to the Eastern and Southern States, and where early drouth and the parching hot weather often hurts and injures native sorts. It matures safely anywhere in from 90 to 100 days; is very solid and compact. We can heartily recommend this corn to our customers as one of the surest croppers and best yielders we grow, and could print hundreds of testimonials from those who have tried it, if space would permit, all verifying what we have said of this splendid variety of corn.

PRICE: Postage by mail, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant an acre), $1.00. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, 60c; half bu., 90c; 1 bu. to 5 bu., $1.75; 6 bu. to 10 bu. and over, $1.60 per bu. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices. (5 bu. lots at 10 bu. prices.)

Hickory King



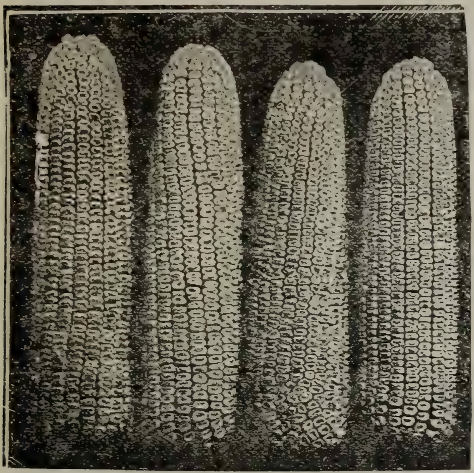
Hickory King is a white variety of field corn which has the largest grains with smallest cob of any corn in existence. The grains are so large and cob so extremely small that when the ear is broken in two pieces a single grain will cover completely the cob section. This corn is of very vigorous habits, is a splendid and sure cropper, is especially well suited to light or thin soil, and is a very desirable variety and largely planted in many of the Southern States. It, however, does well in all the Northern and Central Western States, but it is not as early to mature as our "Pride of Nishna" and "Iowa Silver Mine."

PRICE: Postpaid by mail, 1 lb., 25c; 3lbs., 60c; 7 lbs., $1.00. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense: Peck, 75c; half bu., $1.25; 1 bu., $2.25; 2 bu., $4.25; 5 bu. and over, $2.00 per bu. Bags included, f. o. b. cars here.

It Pays to Plant the Best Varieties of Seed Corn

To use our thoroughbred, inherited Seed Corn will cost you but 35 to 50 cents per acre, freight charges included. It is therefore evident that if it produces but one bushel more per acre than old run out sorts it will more than pay the expense of the seed. And if you get 30, 40 or 50 bushels increased yield per acre there is more profit in it for the money invested, ten times over, than any stock breeder ever realized or thought of. In confirmation of this, we wish to again quote Prof. P. G. Holden, of the Iowa State Experiment Station, of Ames, Iowa, who says: "I took seed corn from the corn planter boxes of one hundred farmers in Storey County, Iowa, near the Agricultural College, and planted in the trial fields of the Agricultural College. Some made only 20 BUSHELS PER ACRE, WHILE OTHER LOTS YIELDED ALMOST 100 BUSHELS. THIS WIDE DIFFERENCE WAS ALL IN THE SEED. The land and methods being identical. THE EXPENSE OF GROWING WAS THE SAME. THE BEST SEED AND VARIETIES PRODUCED FULLY FOUR TIMES AS MUCH CORN, OF BETTER QUALITY, THAN DID THE OTHER LOTS OF INFERIOR CORN."

BOONE COUNTY WHITE



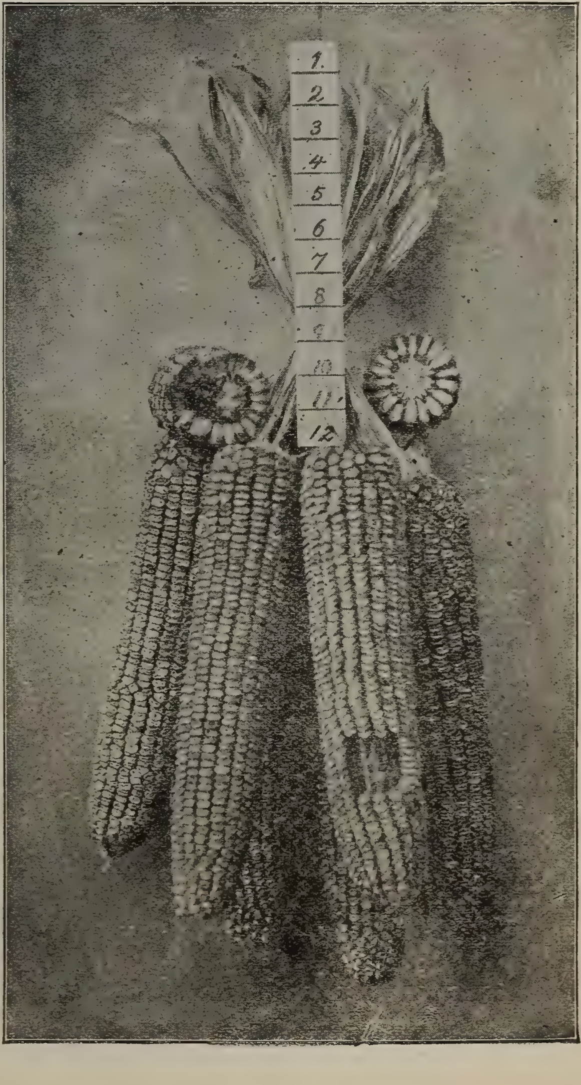
Is a highly bred variety of white corn of extra large size containing a high percentatge of oil. It is late maturing, but with good long seasons and favorable conditions it is a splendid yielder. In many places it is a great favorite with some. The ears are from 8 to 11 inches long, 7½ to 8½ inches in circumference, containing 18 to 24 rows, weighing from 12 to 18 oz. The cob is medium large and pure white in color. The ears are quite uniform in size, shape and appearance. The kernels are pearl white, quite rough, very deep, with fine large germ. This variety grows a large stalk from 10 to 12 feet high with an abundance of foliage, and like other white varieties is the best for old, thin, or poor soil. They gather more plant food from the air and less from the soil than does yellow corn. With favorable seasons in localities where it has plenty of time to mature it is particularly valuable; say the southern half of Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. Matures fully in about 120 days. Our seed stock of this variety was grown from pure, inherited stock and can be relied upon to give the best possible results that can be obtained from this variety.

PRICE: **By mail, postpaid, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), $1.00. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense: Peck, 50c; half bushel, 90c; 1 bu. to 5 bu., $1.60; 6 bu. to 10 bu., $1.60 per bu. Bags free. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bu. more. (5 bu. lots at 10 bu. prices.)**

Legal Tender

This is now one of the most prominent varieties of large medium late varieties, and those who have tried it speak very highly of the splendid results obtained from it. It is a very productive corn where seasons will permit of its maturity, and it's no uncommon thing to find ears 12 in. long that weigh from 1 to 1½ lbs. each. The stalks grow 10 to 12 feet high with very heavy foliage, which makes it valuable fodder corn. Legal Tender has been a great premium taker, and to those who want a large late variety of corn we firmly believe you will find it a most splendid variety and that it will become a permanent fixture on your farm. Under favorable conditions this variety will mature in 115 to 120 days and seems to be well adapted to the Central Southern States. Our seed stock of this variety is pure bred of inherited stock, and you can depend upon it giving you the best possible results.

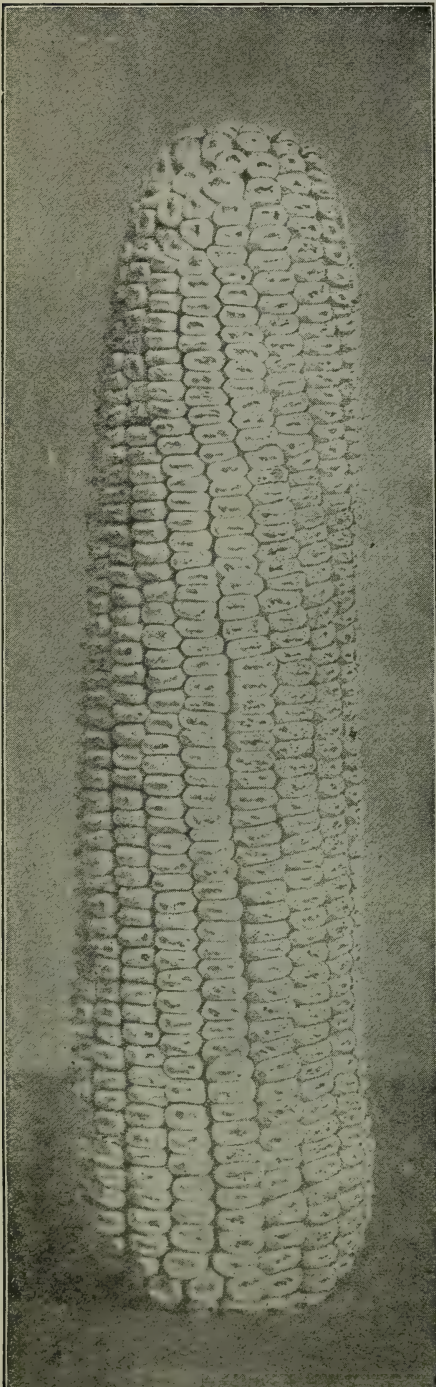
PRICE: **Postpaid by mail, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant an acre), $1.00. By freight or express: 1 pk., 50c; half bu., 90c; 1 bu. to 5 bu., $1.60; 6 to 10 bu. and over, $1.50 per bu. Bags included. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices. (5 bu. at 10 bu. prices.)**



CORN IS KING AND THE RAISING OF CORN IS SCIENCE.

Start right by planting seed that will grow and varieties that will produce the largest yield and biggest crops. Every ear a thoroughbred; every kernel a live one and every grain the same size. The farmer who will follow our advice on this point in the beginning of his crop will find it a wealth producer, and nuggets of gold at harvest time. To illustrate: Notice the progressive farmer who has planted our seed corn; read what he says of results obtained, and compare his experience with the man who has not. See the difference in the yield of his crop as well as the quality of corn he grows. To illustrate better, brother farmer, will you stop a moment and count the cost of enough of our thoroughbred seed corn to plant 10, 20, 30, 50 or 100 acres? One bushel will plant from 7 to 8 acres of ground. The seed will cost you from $1.50 to $3.00 per bu., or from 35c to 50c per acre. Thus the increased yield costs you less than a cent a bushel as compared with planting common varieties and scrub sorts. There is not a farmer or corn grower in the United States who cannot afford to plant our thoroughbred varieties. Thousands of farmers have made money by planting it, while thousands have lost money by not planting it. Will it not pay you to consider these points for yourself? Count the cost of seed and consider the comparative results and profits to be derived from a small investment, by planting our thoroughbred varieties of corn.

MEDIUM STANDARD VARIETIES



RATEKIN'S IMPROVED CALICO CORN. This corn is the old fashioned kind and has always been very popular as a feeding corn and for many years we have had a great demand for it, especially from stock feeders. So great has been the demand for this excellent feeding corn that we have given greater attention to it the past few years than in former years and without fear of contradiction we can say we have the very highest and best strain of this corn that can be found anywhere. The strain we grow is of the large eared kind, deep grain and small cob, thus insuring early maturity. The ears run from 9 to 12 inches in length and measure from 7 to 8 inches in circumference. It is a combination in color of red, white and yellow stripes. It is full of protein and very rich and stock like it and eat it in preference to any other corn. To all those in want of one of the best corns for stock feeding we want to say we are in a position to supply you with the very best of seed.

PRICE: By mail postpaid, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant an acre), $1.00. By freight or express: Peck, 50c; half bu., 90c; 1 bu. to 5 bu., $1.60 per bu.; 6 bu. to 10 bu. and over, $1.50 per bu. Bags free on board cars here. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices. 5 bu. lots at 10 bu. prices.

SAINT CHARLES WHITE. This excellent variety of white corn was originated in St. Charles County, Missouri, and is very popular with a large number of our customers in Missouri, and makes well in southern Iowa. In fact our Missouri customers with whom this is such a favorite claim to get very much better results from our Iowa grown seed than from their Missouri grown seed, and that it matures there from ten to fifteen days earlier than home grown sorts of the same variety.

DESCRIPTION.—The St. Charles White is a very handsome pure variety of white corn set on a red cob and this corn appears to make a finer and better grade for milling purposes and for corn meal than almost any other sort. The ears are usually 8 to 10 inches long, 16 to 18 rows of deep, broad kernels, the upper corners of the kernels being rounding. The stalk grows from 8 to 10 and 12 feet high, dependent upon the land upon which it is planted, the lowlands and bottoms producing the taller stalks; the stalk growing broad succulent blades, thus making it a very desirable corn for general crop purposes; for grain, fodder or for ensilage purposes. Our customers in the South, North, East and West are greatly in favor with this excellent variety of corn. In the South for the grain crop it produces and in the East, West and North for the fodder and ensilage it produces. **Price same as Calico Corn.**

IOWA GOLD MINE. Our stock of this is first class, well ripened and of sound maturity and can be depended on to grow where other sorts have failed or where a medium early variety is wanted for late planting. It will mature in good shape as far north as southern Minnesota. The grain is a rich golden, shining like a new coin from the mint; long deep kernel; often ⅝ to ¾ of an inch long. This corn shells out from 58 to 60 lbs. per 70 lbs. ears.

PRICE FOR IOWA GOLD MINE. One ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant one acre), $1.00, postpaid or express prepaid to any point in the United States. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, 60c; half bu., $1.00; 1 bu., $1.75; 5 bu. or more, $1.60. Bags free, f. o. b. here.

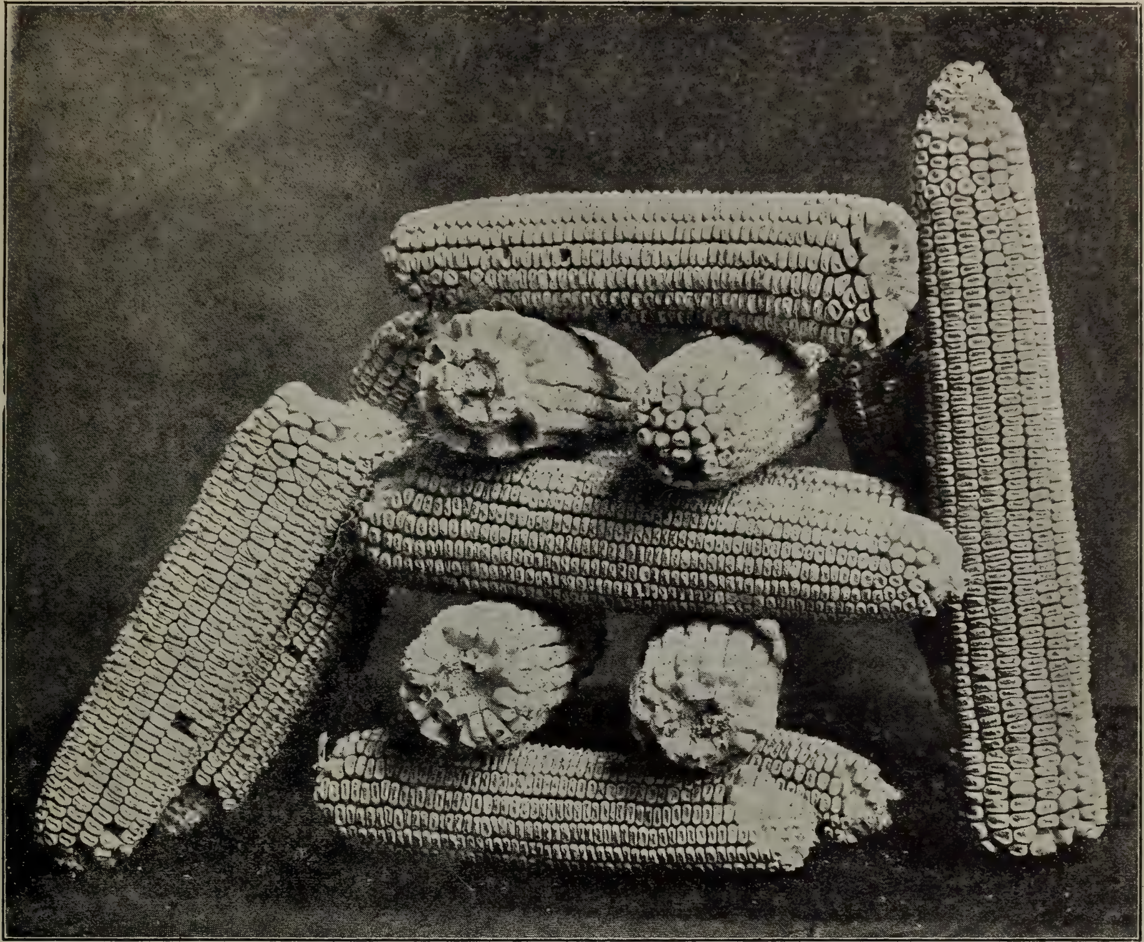
FUNK'S YELLOW DENT. Our stock of this variety was grown from seed purchased direct from the Funk farms, which variety has been advertised as a most excellent variety of yellow corn. They claim the average yield of this corn for the past four or five years has been upward of 100 bushels per acre. They also claim it to be an improvement over Reid's Yellow Dent, and has the same general characteristics. The ears are from 8 to 11 inches long, cylindrical in shape from butt to tip with 16 to 20 rows on small red cob. The kernels are medium rough. The originators claim this variety to be a vigorous grower; makes medium heavy foliage and a good combination corn for grain and ensilage purposes.

PRICE: Postpaid, by mail: Sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), $1.00. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, 50c; half bu., 90c; 1 bu. to 5 bu., $1.60; 6 to 10 bu., and over, $1.50 per bu. Bags free on board cars here. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices. 5 bu. lots at 10 bu. prices.

REID'S YELLOW DENT. Our stock of this variety this year is exceptionally pure, well ripened, and shows a test of 90 to 95 per cent. of strong germination. It is the finest show corn grown for corn shows and county institutes. Last year it took second premium at the Omaha National Corn Show. It is a medium early variety doing well and ripening as far north as central Iowa.

PRICE: By mail, postpaid: Sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant an acre), $1.00. By freight or express: Peck, 50c; half bu., 90c; 1 bu. to 5 bu., $1.60 per bu.; 6 to 10 bu. and over, $1.50 per bu. Bags free on board cars here. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices. 5 bu. lots at 10 bu. prices.

EXTRA EARLY VARIETIES



RATEKIN'S GOLD STANDARD—A NEW INTRODUCTION

THE GREATEST NINETY DAY CORN IN THE WORLD

It is the early maturing yellow dent corn you have been looking for. The stalks grow from 7 to 10 feet high, dependent on the land it is planted on; sets ears about 3 to 3½ feet from the ground; ears run from 8 to 11 inches long, with 16 to 18 rows, very deep grains, set on a small red cob, and shells out 60 to 64 lbs. per 70 lbs. of ears. It is a pure bred corn; every stalk producing at least one good ear and many of them two, and yields from 40 to 75 bushels per acre on good land under normal conditions, and will be ready to husk and crib for feeding and market fully three weeks ahead of ordinary varieties. We can conscientiously recommend this corn as the acme of perfection, in early maturing and as a wonderful yielder, and cannot too strongly urge every farmer to plant liberally of it, for an early, quick maturing corn where late or replanting is necessitated from any cause.

We have received reports from fully thirty per cent. of those who planted of it last season and without exception and from everywhere comes the most glowing accounts of the performance of this new variety, both in early maturity and tremendous yields. We can therefore fully recommend it to corn growers everywhere and especially where the seasons are short, or where wanted for early feed or for late planting. It will make a good crop if planted anywhere south of central Iowa any time before June 25th to 30th and is so much superior to Iowa Gold Mine and other early varieties there cannot begin to be any comparison. From any point, including productiveness, yield and early maturity, depth of grain, solidity of ear and smallness of cob, our new **GOLD STANDARD** stands ahead of them all. Don't wait until our stock is exhausted, but send your order in early. It will cost you no more, if as much, as to send later; then by getting your seed early you have time to test it and will also have it at hand when conditions are favorable and you are ready to plant.

PRICE: 1 lb., 25c; 1 ear, 25c; 3 lbs., 65c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant an acre of ground), $1.25; postage or sent by express prepaid to any point in the United States. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, $1.00; half bushel, $1.75; bushel, $3.00; 5 bushels and over, $2.50; bags included, f. o. b. here. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bushel to foregoing prices.

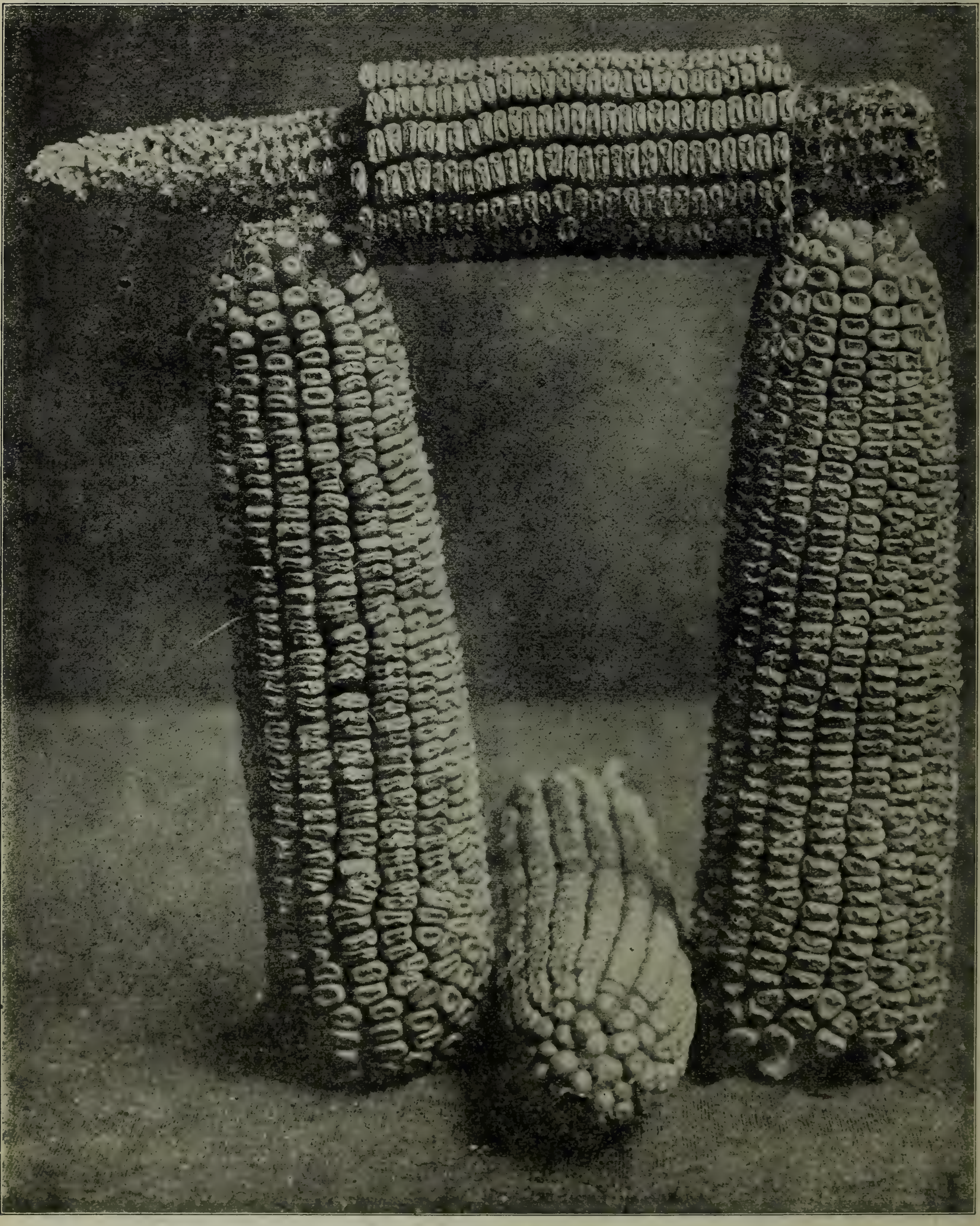
Sullivan County, N. Y., May 7th.—Seed Corn, Potatoes and Nursery Stock received all right.—Jno. Schaefer.

Day County, South Dakota, June 1st.—I write to say the Seed Corn came to hand all O. K.—M. A. Bates.

Windsor County, Vermont, May 31st. — I received the seeds ordered from you all O. K., which was very satisfactory. Thank you for promptness in hurrying them along.—R. Link.

EXTRA EARLY VARIETIES

(Continued from preceding page.)



RATEKIN'S QUEEN OF NISHNA

(See Next Page)

EXTRA EARLY VARIETIES

QUEEN OF NISHNA

(Continued from preceding page)

DESCRIPTION.—The ears ordinarily run from 7 to 10 inches long, with 16 to 20 rows of deep, compact grains solodily set on a small red cob. The stalks grow from 7 to 10 feet high, dependent upon the ground where planted, and under ordinary conditions makes a yield of from 30 to 60 bushels per acre. Each year we sell thousands of bushels of this variety all over the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and throughout New York and the New England States, in fact, we sell this corn everywhere where corn is grown. In some states it is planted for general crop, in others for early feed and still in others it is used for late planting or replanting where other sorts have failed from one cause and another. We feel that we cannot recommend this corn too highly for all the purposes we have named and feel sure that no farmer who plants corn will make any mistake in ordering and planting at least a part of his crop to this most excellent variety of early corn.

PRICE: Sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 50c; 7 lbs., $1.00; postpaid or prepaid by express to any point in the United States. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, 60c; half bushel, $1.10; 1 bushel, $2.00; 5 bushels and over, $1.90. Bags free f. o. b. here.

THE ALASKA-NORTHWESTERN DENT

This corn is in a class of its own; is a yellow dent and **THE EARLIEST YELLOW DENT CORN IN THE WORLD.** It was introduced by us four years ago throughout North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Northern Michigan; also in the New England States where the season for corn is short; everywhere our customers have been greatly pleased and loud in its praise. Like all other varieties of Indian Corn it gives best results on good strong ground. Many of our customers claim to have grown as high as **SEVENTY-FIVE BUSHELS PER ACRE** from it; usually, however, it yields from 30 to 50 bushels on ordinary corn ground and matures beyond danger of frost within eighty days. Under ordinary conditions it grows to the height of six to eight feet; average distance of ears from ground two feet and a half. The ears run from 7 to 10 inches long, very deep grain set on a small red cob, 14 to 18 rows on cob, and so sound you can plant very early and depend on 99 to 100 per cent. germinating good and strong. One bushel will plant seven acres of ground. Our supply of this seed is limited. You will do well to order early.

PRICE: One ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 65c; 7 lbs., $1.25, postpaid or express charges prepaid to any point in the United States. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, $1.00; half bu., $1.75; 1 bu., $3.25; 5 bu. and over, $3.00 per bu. Bags free f. o. b. here.

RATEKIN'S DAKOTA BLOODY BUTCHER. This is another most excellent variety of extra early maturing corn and is a great favorite and extensively grown in North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Northern Wisconsin and Michigan, as well as other states of high altitude and where the seasons are short and frost may be expected early. It is next to our Queen of Nishna as a large yielder among the early sorts, always making itself safely in from 80 to 90 days even in the far Northern States; besides this it is a variety of great tenacity to resist and withstand unfavorable conditions, such as extreme wet or dry, and will do better on old, poor or thin soil than almost any other sort.

DESCRIPTION.—The ears ordinarily run from 8 to 12 inches long with 12 to 16 rows of solid, compact grains of a reddish or flesh color, being almost round and of a very nutritious character for feeding corn; one bushel going almost as far as 1¼ bushels of ordinary varieties. It usually makes a yield of from 30 to 50 bushels per acre on ordinary land under normal conditions, and we can fully recommend it for planting everywhere that quick maturing varieties are required.

PRICE: Sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs., $1.00, postpaid or prepaid by express to any point in the United States. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, 60c; half bu., $1.10; 1 bu., $2.00; 5 bu. and over, $1.90. Bags free f. o. b. here.

PRIDE OF THE NORTH. This variety of early corn was originated by Mr. A. L. Goddard, of Kossouth County, Iowa (one of the extreme northern counties in Iowa), about twenty-five years ago, and at once sprang into great prominence as the earliest of all yellow dent corns, and is yet a great favorite in some of the extreme Northern States. It is a very pure and handsome yellow dent corn. The ears running from 7 to 9 inches long, with small cob and kernel; ears usually containing from 12 to 16 rows; 70 lbs. ears will shell out 60 to 62 lbs.; will ripen and mature safely anywhere in about 90 days; can be planted as late as June 25th to 30th, and make itself by September 10th. Good soil is capable of growing four to six stalks to the hill and many stalks have two ears, and usually produces from 30 to 50 bushels good, sound corn per acre.

PRICE: One lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), $1.00, postpaid. By freight or express: Peck, 75c; half bu., $1.25; 1 bu., $2.00; 5 bu. or more, $1.90 per bu. Bags free, on board cars here.

MONEY IN LITTLE THINGS

Very often there is good money in "little things" which, because they are small, people are apt to overlook. Popcorn is one of these.

ITS PROFITABLE USES.

1st. It yields of shocked corn of the very best feeding value at the rate of 8 to 10 tons per acre.

2nd. The small ears, which mature early, are very valuable for pigs, calves and young stock generally, during the fall and winter months.

3rd. The yield of ear corn to the acre is equal to any of the larger varieties, as it can be planted much closer than larger varieties of corn.

4th. Thousands of carloads of popcorn are annually sold for popping purposes.

5th. Popcorn brings a higher price than other corn and a ready market is found for any quantity, and a farmer cannot raise better feed.

6th. Boys or girls can grow an acre or two of popcorn and dispose of the product to their neighbors or to the nearest merchant. Why not turn it over to the children? It will afford them pleasure and profit.

Plant at the rate of six to eight quarts to the acre. We have a choice lot of this popcorn carefully chosen for seed purposes.

PRICES: 1 lb., 25c, postpaid. By express or freight at purchaser's expense: One-fourth bu., 75c; bu. of 58 lbs., $2.75. Bags free.

Tarrant Co., Texas, Feb. 16, 1910: Seed corn arrived to-day in good condition. Found it very fine. Am well pleased. TAYLOR BLEVINS.

Miller Co., Ark., Aug. 15, 1909: **Diamond Joe's Big White Corn** got from you has proven a wonder; never saw anything like it. It's the earliest field corn I ever saw and made an average of 1½ ears to every stalk. Send order sheets and self-addressed envelopes and look for several orders from my neighbors. V. J. WHORTON.

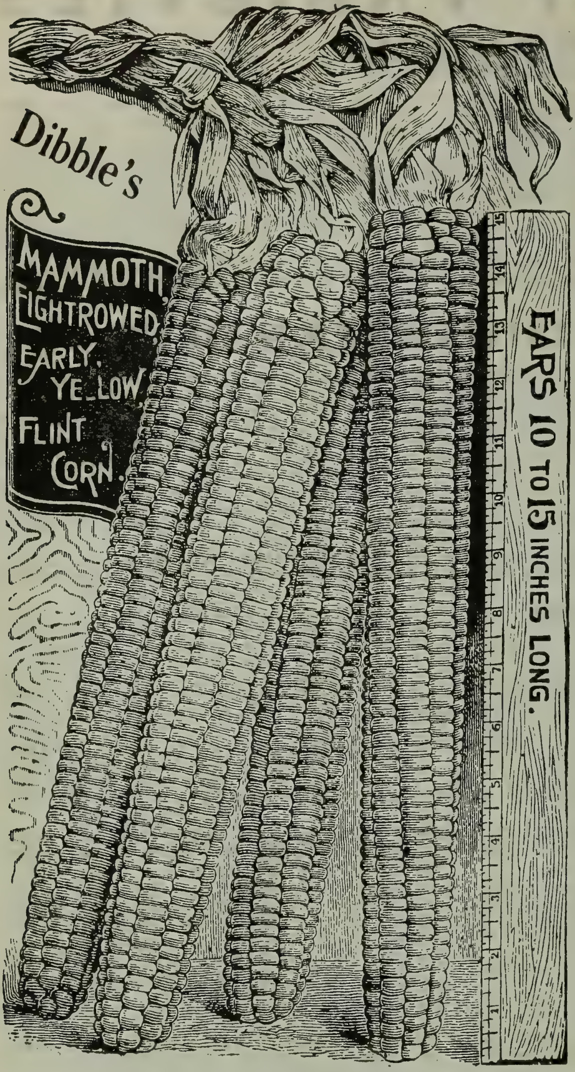
Garvin Co., Okla., Jan. 1, 1910: I planted your seed corn three years ago and it has given much better yields than any our native sorts and matures three weeks ahead of any them. My seed, however, has about run out and I will want new seed again this year. Please send me your 1910 catalog. W. H. PRATT.

Marengo Co., Ala., Jan. 17th, 1910: I found your "**Queen of Nishna**" the best and most desirable corn for early feeding that I have ever seen. I begun feeding this corn last season on third day of June. S. W. COMPTON.

Midland Co., Texas: All of both farm and garden seeds I got from you have proven good and given splendid results. T. H. ALSTON.

Monroe Co., Ga., August 9, 1909: I certainly was well pleased with results from **Diamond Joe's Big White** got from you. Send me sample Emmer or Speltz. CLARENCE WALDRUP.

Fayette Co., Tenn., April 20, 1910: I received the seed corn in perfect condition; many thanks for prompt attention. C. H. AUSTIN.



Dibble's Mammoth Yellow Flint

(Our stock of Flint Corn is all shelled.)

Every year from June 1st to September 1st, we devote our entire time looking after our contract growers and investigating different sections of the country to find the best varieties adapted to the various climatic conditions, and while in northern New York some years ago we found a variety of Flint Corn known all over New York and the New England States, as "**DIBBLE'S MAMMOTH YELLOW FLINT**" and everywhere was extolled as the most wonderful of all flint varieties. So favorably impressed were we, with this corn from what farmers told us, we went directly to the originator, Mr. Dibble himself, and procured a supply of seed from his own private stock for our planting purposes. Since then we have been growing and selling it with most satisfactory results all over the Dakotas, Minnesota, Northern Wisconsin, Michigan, New York and the New England States. In short, we believe it to be the earliest, best and most productive flint corn there is grown. The stalks average 9 to 12 feet high, dependent upon the ground; each stalk bearing from one to three ears. It leaves very profusely, nearly to the ground, and both the leaves and stalks are very nutritious and stock will eat every vestage of the stalk as well as the leaves or blades. The ears average from 10 to 15 inches in length. It is very early to mature and if planted late or when the ground is warm it will ripen and be ready for the knife within sixty days from planting. The seed we furnish our customers is from hand picked ears running 10 inches and over in length, thoroughly dry, well cured and can be depended upon to grow almost to a grain.

Owing to the superior advantages of this corn over other sorts, of its class, we want to urge all who grow corn in the far north, where the seasons are short and where frost may be expected the last of August to September 1st, to order early.

PRICE: 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs., $1.25; postage or express prepaid to any point in the United States. By freight or express, not prepaid, pk., 65c; bu., $2.50; 2 bu. or more at $2.40; 10 bu., $22.50. Bags free. ½ bu. $1.25.

SANFORD'S WHITE FLINT. Handsomest of all Flints

The ears are of unusual length, 10 to 15 inches, smooth and symmetrical in shape, of a flinty white color. Makes a very sturdy, vigorous growth, with broad and succulent leaves. Stalks usually have 2 or 3 ears each.

Prices, same as Dibble's Mammoth Yellow Flint.

KING PHILIP FLINT

A very early 8-rowed red flint. Ripens in 80 days. Stalks are very leafy, splendid for feeding green or for silage. Extremely hardy and a good cropper on poor land.

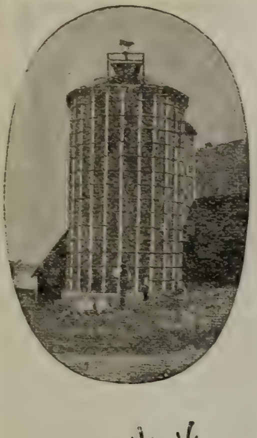
Prices, same as Dibble's Mammoth Yellow Flint.

SOME REASONS WHY

It Is Profitable To Buy Your Seeds Direct from Ratekin's Seed House

First of all it is because you want the best. It's dollars and cents you are after; the best returns and most money from your expenditure. The farmer carries his produce to market, receiving the lowest wholesale price; then turns around and buys his seeds and other necessities at the highest retail prices. Our Butter, Eggs, Wheat, Corn, Hogs and Cattle are sold to the local Merchant or Buyer, then to a Commission man, then to the dealer, grocer or whatever place he may occupy in the road between producer and consumer. Think of this, annalize it in any way you can: Three or four profits added to the cost, and when the transaction is consumated, you don't know within one to ten thousand miles of where your seeds are grown, nor what to expect from them. In ordering your seeds from us, we try to make it plain to you where they are grown and to tell you all about it. But if our catalog is not sufficient to tell you, write us a personal letter, and we will be pleased to give you any and all further information we can. Always address **RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE, Shenandoah, Iowa.**

FODDER CORN



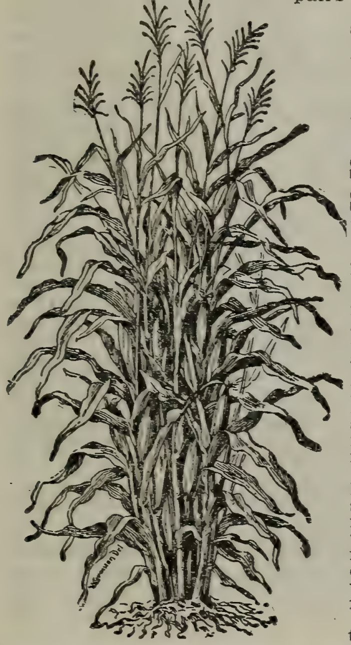
FOR YEARS WE HAVE BEEN PREACHING THE GREAT VALUE OF FODDER AND ENSILAGE CORN; year by year our sales have increased to an incredible degree. Only a few years ago there was but little Fodder Corn planted, but now almost every farmer, especially in the North and Northwestern States, as well as all the Eastern and Northern States, plant Fodder Corn each year and find it one of the most profitable crops grown. It produces more tons of feed per acre than any other grain or grass—25 tons per acre of green feed is but an ordinary good crop and in many cases our customers have reported as high as 35 to 40 tons. Fodder Corn is also frequently sowed broadcast at the rate of two or three bushels per acre for supplemental pastures to be used when grass is short and dried up during the latter summer and fall months.

RATEKIN'S GIANT SHENANDOAH FODDER CORN.

Beyond a doubt this is among the best fodder corn either to feed green right out the field, or to put up for the silo, or to cure and stack away, cropping as high as 35 tons to the acre. It is sweet, tender and juicy, and furnishes more nourishment than any other variety; has short joint and therefore an abundance of leaves and blades, and growing as tall as the tallest, thus making it of extraordinary productiveness. The only fault we have ever heard of this fodder corn is that it grows so large and so tall it makes it harder to handle. We measured one stalk from our crop last fall that was 22 feet and 4 inches in height and measured 1¾ inches in diameter at the base, and contained 42 pairs of broad, long blades.

Drill 1 to 1½ bushels to the acre in rows about 3½ feet apart. Five or six kernels to each foot of row; plow and cultivate until 3 feet high, stirring the surface of the ground often, after which it will take care of itself.

PRICE: Peck, 40c; half bu., 70c; 1 bu., $1.25; 2 bu., $2.25; 5 bu. and over, $1.10. Bags free, f. o. b. here.



STOWELL'S EVERGREEN SWEET FODDER CORN.

Aside from our Giant Fodder Corn we regard Stowell's Evergreen Sweet Corn one of the best and most valuable varieties grown, being a most excellent variety to cut and throw out to milch cows, horses and hogs during the summer and fall months when grass is dried up and pastures are short; as a green fodder fed in this way one acre will furnish as much feed as eight acres of grass. The sweet, juicy stalks give it a flavor that makes stock like it as they like nothing else, and stock will devour the last vestige of the stalks and blades as clean as they would wipe up the best clover in the midst of winter. It is claimed by all dairy farmers that it will not only greatly increase the flow of milk, but will add a third to a half to the cream production. All we have said about its wonderful qualities as a green feed may be said with equal truth and force when it is cut up and put into shocks and fed during the winter months. Even in its dry stage, stock of all kinds will eat every vestige of the stalks and blades. There is no waste whatever in this corn.

Plant with drill in rows 3½ feet apart, 8 to 10 kernels to the foot in the row. Cultivate thoroughly, plowing deep and close to the corn the first time, after which cultivate shallow or surface cultivation until three feet high. This variety of corn will make you from 15 to 30 tons to the acre.

PRICE: Peck, 75c; half bu., $1.40; 1 bu., write for prices on quantity.

RED COB FODDER CORN.

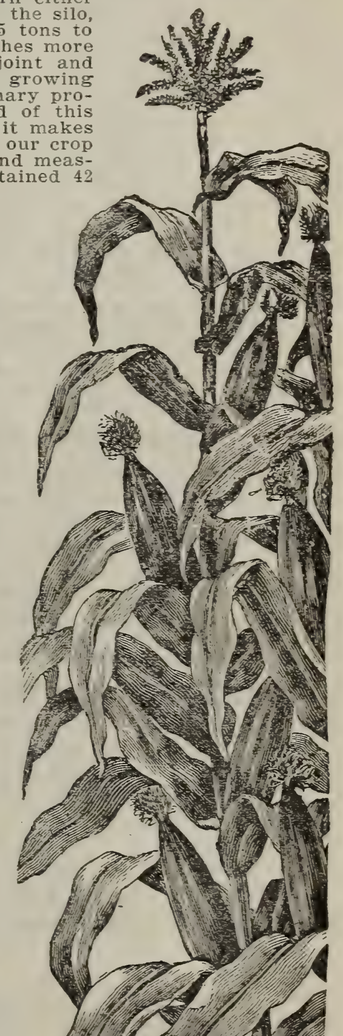
This is a standard Southern variety which has made a wide reputation all over the country and is noted for its splendid qualities for both fodder and ensilage purposes. It grows very tall, ranging from 12 to 16 feet, and is a very leafy, broad blade.

PRICE: Peck, 35c; ½ bu., 70c; 1 bu., $1.25; 2 bu., $2.25; 10 bu. and over, $1.10 per bu. Bags free, f. o. b. here.

IN CONCLUSION.—The one problem that confronts every farmer who keeps stock is how to get feed to supply his horses, cattle and hogs. The corn plant is the foundation food, and every portion of it should be used. A good silo on every farm where stock is raised and where corn can be grown solves the problem. But where the farmer don't feel able or conditions do not justify, he should at least grow a few acres of Fodder Corn and take care of it in the most practical way he can. We cannot too highly recommend **Stowell's Evergreen** where you have only a few horses or cows. Plant a few acres if no more and our word for it you will be pleased. Don't plant too early nor when the ground is cold and wet. Sweet corn will sour in the ground when other field varieties will grow under wet, cold weather conditions.

FOR GRAIN AND FODDER CROP COMBINED

We want to especially recommend our Gold Standard, Ratekin's Yellow Dent, Pride of Nishna, Iowa Silver Mine, and Imperial White Corn. Either of these varieties will give you the best possible combination for a grain crop and fodder or ensilage crop. All of them mature early and each have a very heavy stalk, broad leaves and lots of them.



FODDER CORN.

RATEKIN'S RELIABLE FARM SEEDS

FIRST AFTER GOOD SEED CORN, IN IMPORTANCE AS A SUBSTANTIAL MONEY CROP TO THE AMERICAN FARMER IS SEED WHEAT, OATS, BARLEY, GRASSES, CLOVER, POTATOES, ETC., THESE ARE THE MONEY, DOLLAR, CROPS IN WHICH THE FARMER IS MOST INTERESTED.

While we have given extensive space to the seed corn question there can be no doubt but that as wide opportunity offers to careful study and experiment in the growing of other farm crops, with the same success and results as has been attained in the improvement of Indian Corn and Wheat since the agitation and progress made during the past few years. In fact there is actual proof of this in our own practical experience as well as others who have planted and grown crops from our seeds within the past twenty-seven years. As in corn breeding, we were the pioneers in the breeding and importing new varieties of Seed Wheat and Oats from foreign countries. Our methods for breeding Oats are much the same as those in use at the Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois Experiment Stations, namely: record of single mother plants whose ability to yield has shown them to be exceptionally high and worthy of propagation. In this way our new varieties have been propagated, and we actually believe and know that farmers who buy their seeds from us will have every reason to be glad of it, and will find their every investment made with us for farm and grass seeds a profitable one to them.

In addition to our many years' experience in the seed business, we have had twenty years or more practical experience on the farm. Yes, we have been up against the "real thing itself," and from the time we first engaged in the seed business, 27 years ago, we have always felt that the nearer we could keep in touch with the practical, intelligent, up-to-date farmer, the more valuable information we could gain, and through this source we have been inspired to make a great many experiments in the propagation and improvement in many kinds of farm seeds and crops. Each year since our business began, we have sent out thousands of letters of inquiry to all parts of the country, with regard to results obtained from our seed, manner of planting, cultivation, as well as yields compared with other sorts. By reason of this wide and extended information we believe we are in a position to help and benefit many of our customers in making selection of seeds best suited to their climate and soil, which we are always and ever ready to do. In fact, we want to help and assist our customers in every way we can, and if they obtain good and satisfactory results, or better returns from our seed than others get who buy elsewhere, we feel it the best and most profitable advertising we can make. It not only insures a continuance of your patronage, but is an inspiration to encourage your neighbors and friends to send to us for Seeds.

With the liberal and continued support and hearty co-operation of the farmer, we shall in the future, as in the past, urge onward in the fields of new tests and experiments, believing that if we can get a new sort that will produce **TWO BUSHELS** where one formerly grew that we are doing the farmer great good. Our success in this line in the past has been signal, and the farmer stands by us, for our seeds are recognized for their superior quality the world over.

WE WERE THE FIRST TO INTRODUCE NEW AND BETTER VARIETIES OF FIELD SEED CORN. We have **IMPROVED AND INTRODUCED NEW VARIETIES OF WINTER SEED WHEAT;** have originated and introduced new varieties of seed oats, barley, seed potatoes, etc., that have increased the yield largely; often doubling it. For these reasons, **WE TAKE PRIDE** in our large and increasing trade in the **FARM SEED** branch of our business. With our new and convenient building and improved machinery for cleaning, which are as perfect as any in the United States, we are enabled to clean and grade all kinds of seeds perfectly; far better than those commonly sold.

HIGH GRADE SEED GRAIN. It costs more to grow a crop for seed purposes than the ordinary farmer can understand. In the first place it requires extra choice stock seed, specially prepared land, special cultivation, great care in harvesting, cleaning, testing, preparing for shipment, bags, etc., etc., so we are obliged to ask a considerable advance over market prices, but any intelligent farmer will agree with us that such seeds are well worth to him, in the increased yield, all we ask.

PRICES: Prices named in this department are subject to important market changes. **Quotations** are net. **and are not subject to premium or discount** which is **offered on garden or other seeds.** Clover and grass seeds are constantly varying in value. Please write for quotations, sending list of requirements when in need. Orders sent us will be given the benefit of lowest prices on day order is received. We will take pleasure in mailing samples and quoting inside prices at any time on orders.

SHIPPING: In this department everything that is quoted by the packet or pound is sent by mail postpaid; all large quantities, unless noted, are sent by express or freight at expense of purchaser. Prices named include bags free. Everything delivered free in good order f. o. b. Shenandoah.

FREIGHT SHIPMENTS: In another place in this catalog you will find freight rates quoted to points in many of the states, from which you can form a very correct estimate of what the freight will be to your nearest railroad station. We want to call attention, however, to the fact that railroad companies usually charge no more for 100 lbs., than they do for any lesser amount, and should you want less than 100 lbs. of seeds, **IN ORDER TO EQUALIZE OR REDUCE COST OF TRANSPORTATION,** we advise the sending in of club orders. Any one can get up a club. Simply see some of your neighbors and friends and ask them to send with you, and advise us to ship to one person, in one shipment. If each customer writes or makes out his own order under his own name it will be a very easy matter for us to keep each customer's seeds separate, and the freight charges will be next to nothing when shared by several persons. Or you can divide them yourself, as you wish.

IF YOU LIVE AT A DISTANT POINT and wish to order some article or seeds that would weigh but fifteen or twenty pounds it would then be cheaper and safer, as well as expeditious, to send it by express.

REMEMBER THAT WE GUARANTEE OUR SEEDS TO BE AS REPRESENTED, AND IF NOT FOUND ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY ON RECEIPT AND EXAMINATION YOU MAY RETURN THEM AT OUR EXPENSE ANY TIME WITHIN 10 DAYS AND MONEY PAID FOR THEM WILL BE REFUNDED.

A GOOD FARMER

It is said that "the result of warfare depends very largely upon the men behind the guns." This is equally true of every human endeavor. The successful growing of a crop is no exception. "He that by the plow would thrive must either hold or drive," is as true as it is old. In this day of advanced agriculture success can only be obtained by a good knowledge of the underlying scientific principles.

Any one can farm after a fashion, but for best results aside from weather and climatic conditions, there are three or four other essential elements, all of about equal importance, that must be combined in order that success may be assured. They are a good farmer, good soil, good seed and good cultivation, mixed with brains and intelligence.

The chemical and mechanical conditions of the soil, the physiology of the plants as well as the philosophy of cultivation and plant growth, must be understood by the farmer in order that he may be able to meet and overcome the ever varying conditions that confront him, identical conditions not returning once in a decade. Having the knowledge, he will know when, how and for what purpose he cultivates. To illustrate: suppose the soil seems quite fertile but is inclined to pack and run together and become hard on the least provocation. It shows that the soil lacks humus, vegetable mould, or as some call it, fiber. The remedy is to apply a heavy coat of coarse litter, such as coarse manure, straw or stalks cut fine, or a heavy crop of some green stuff plowed under—any way to add decayed vegetable matter to the soil.

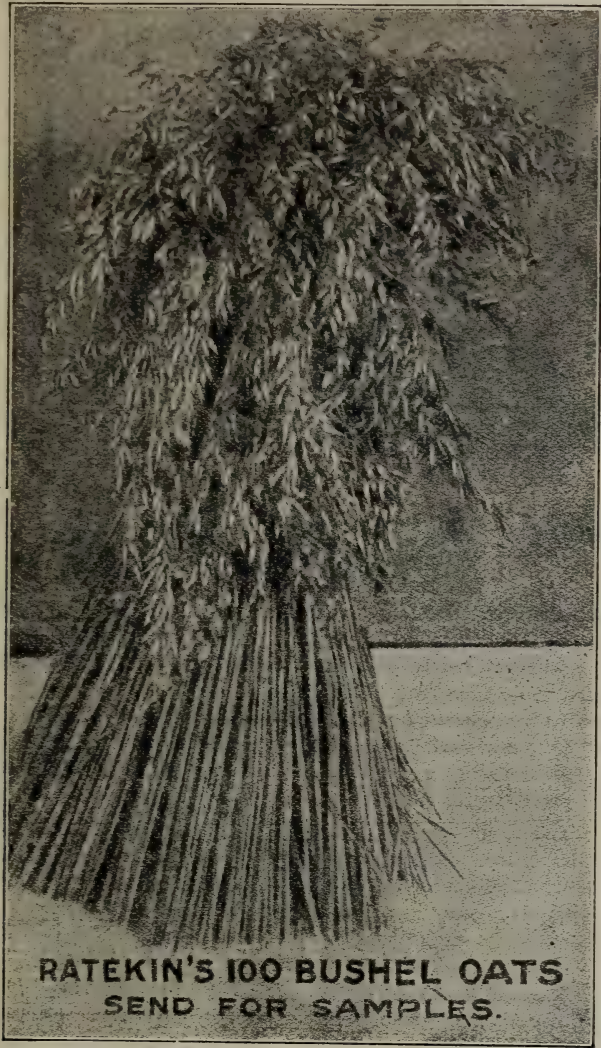
Or suppose there is too heavy growth of stalk, vines or branches and a light crop of grain or fruit. This shows there is too much nitrogen compared with other elements of fertility. The thing to do is to add phosphoric acid and potash to restore the proper balance, or continue to crop with some rank grower until the surplus nitrogen is taken up. Hence, we conclude the farmer must be a close observer, a good reasoner, a thinker and executor. But, however well informed may be the "man with a hoe," he cannot raise a good crop without good soil, good seed and good cultivation.

GOOD SEEDS

By good seed we mean that which has been handled so that all of its germinating power has been preserved, aided by a constitutional vigor implanted in the grain by a judicious selection, cultivation and environment that produces a pure or improved variety. This may be done by the common farmer, but is generally best done by the professional seed grower. He generally knows better how to do this, and has the proper facilities for doing the work. This is (or soon will be) a business of itself.

What is here said in this book as to seed corn will apply to all other farm seeds and farm crops.

Ratekin's Big Banner 100 Bushel Oats



We believe among all that is good **"RATEKIN'S BIG BANNER, 100-BUSHEL, WHITE OATS"** to be the best and to stand pre-eminently at the head of all the best varieties. They are the biggest, prettiest, plumpest oats in existence. Side by side with common sorts they have frequently made 100 bushels per acre where others made but 25 to 40 bushels. Hundreds of customers have written us that on account of their earliness, enormous yielding qualities, freedom from rust and their wonderful stiff straw, standing up perfectly under weather conditions that caused other varieties to lodge and go down, there was **NONE LIKE THEM.**

We were the originators and introducers of this great oat and knew what they were and what they would do before we catalogued them two years ago. We had over fifty thousand bushels of this seed last year and sent out over ten thousand samples promiscuously, indiscriminately, with our catalogs, and it was not sixty days until it was snapped up so quick we hardly knew we had any, as every sample we sent out brought back an average of a ten bushel order.

These oats are a sprangle head, large grain, very thin hull, and are the best and most economical oats for feeding there is in existence, weighing out 40 to 50 lbs. to the measured bushel. Every farmer should try them this year; order at least ten or twenty bushels, enough to get a start and some to sell to your neighbors for seed. Order early before our stock is exhausted. ,

PRICE: One lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; postpaid. By freight or express at purchaser's expense, 1 bu. of 32 lbs., $1.25; 2 bu., $2.20; 10 bu. and over, $1.00 per bu.; 50 bu. and over, 90c per bu. Bags free f. o. b. cars Shenandoah.

Boone County, Ky., Oct. 9th, 1910.
The Big Banner Oats ordered from you simply done fine; made an average of 125 bushels per acre. Please send me sample of your New Malakoff Winter Wheat and your winter wheat catalog.
Very truly yours, W. A. Osborn.

My Banner Oats stood five feet high; made 80 bu. per acre; were the admiration of the surrounding country. The heads measured an average of 10 to 12 inches. E. J. Browning, Franklin Co., Vt.

The Big Banner Oats bought of you made good. We have just threshed from 16 acres 1,310 bushels, machine measure; weight 42 lbs., to measured bushel. Samuel Glasgow, Livingston Co., N. Y.

From the twenty-six acres of Ratekin's Big Banner Oats (50 bu. of seed) we threshed 2,190 bushels, and I believe every bushel will weigh out 40 to 46 lbs. per measured bushel. I never saw anything like them in this country.
John E. Diffenbaugh, Monroe Co., N. Y.

The Big Banner Oats I purchased from you last spring proved everything you claimed for them; 25 bushels of seed sown on 10 acres of ground made me 960 bushels, machine measure, and every measured bushel will weigh out 40 to 45 lbs.
Levi Smith, Adams Co., Neb.

The Big Banner Oats did fine. Threshed 100 bu. from two bushels of seed bought from you last spring.
J. M. Burbanks, Clayton Co., Iowa.

The Big Banner Oats I bought of you last spring proved out all you claimed for them. They stood five feet high and were as even over the top as water in a pond; never saw anything like them in this country. The straw was strong and stiff, standing up well. They made 96 bushels per acre. The weight being 43 lbs. per measured bushel. Will want some of your Pride of Nishna and Iowa Silver Mine seed corn in the spring.
A. M. Grover, Bucks Co., Penn.

Texas Red Rust-Proof Oats

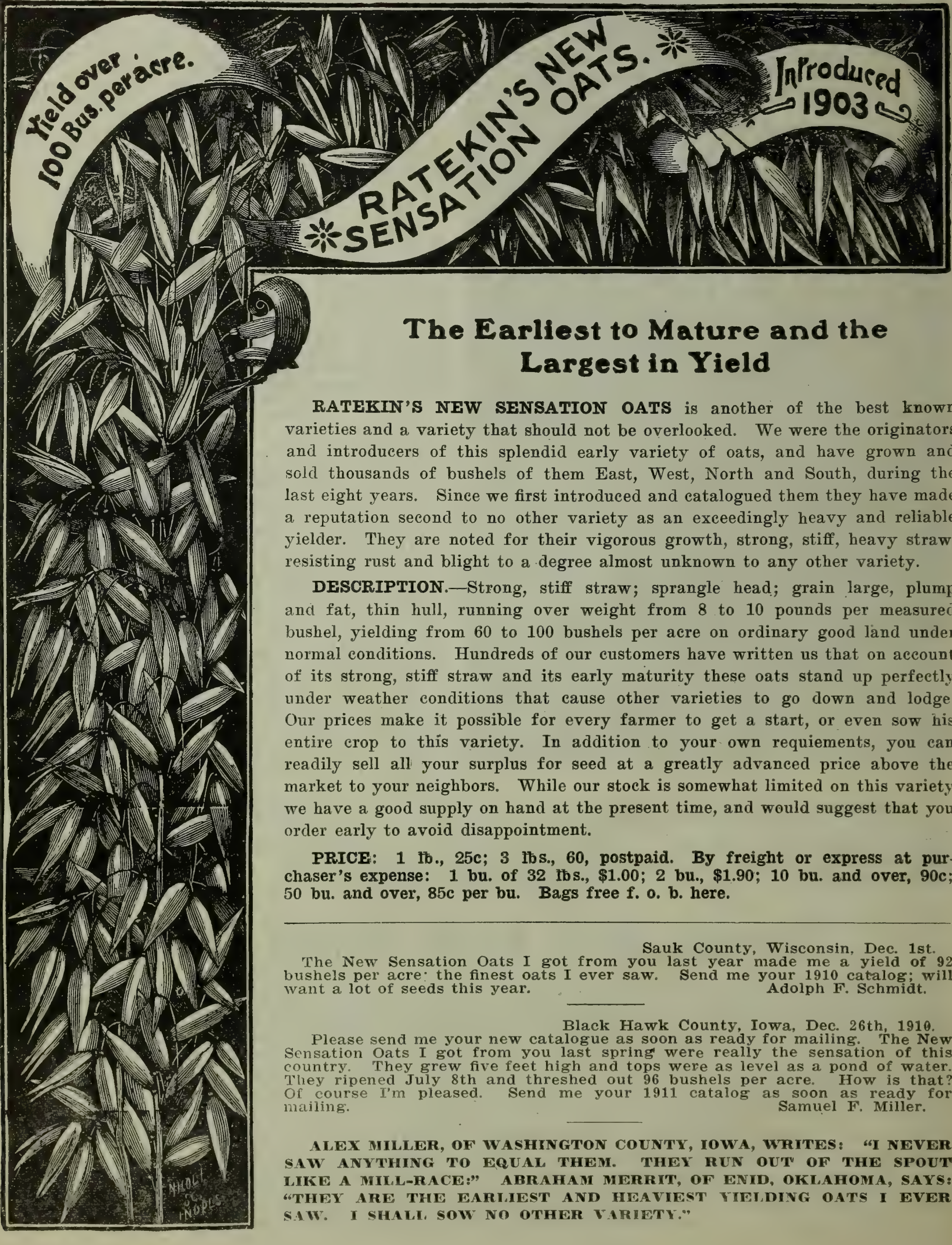
This variety of oats was originated in Grayson County, Texas, and when we were visiting in that state in the early summer of 1898 our attention was brought to the finest field of oats our eyes ever before beheld. At the same time other oat crops on every side and everywhere in that part of the country were completely destroyed by rust and blight and were crinkled down and unfit for anything—not worth cutting. We bought the entire product of the field, about 1,800 bushels, and shipped them to Iowa for seed. It was an experiment with us, but we had seen them grow, and knew that with the great success they attained there under the hot, burning suns of that climate they would do here in the North, and we were not disappointed in results, and since then we have grown them by hundreds of acres and sold seed of them by the thousands of bushels. Since then these oats have made such a wonderful record and become so well known, they have been sold and cataloged by most all the seed houses of the country. But it is probably not untrue to say that more than 75 per cent. of all the oats sold under the name of Texas Red Rust-Proof Oats are more or less mixed with other varieties. Will say, however, that we have always been extremely careful in the threshing and handling of our seed crops and you may depend upon absolutely pure stock when you order your seed from us. As their name implies, they are absolutely rust-proof, and are the surest cropper grown. They can be sown very early without the same danger of freeze or frost other varieties are subject to and will ripen and be ready for harvest two weeks earlier than many of the so-called early varieties, and can always be relied upon to give you a yield of from 75 to 100 bushels per acre on ordinary good ground. They are a very strong, stiff straw, usually growing from 3 to 3½ feet high and will stand up and not lodge where other sorts go down.

PRICE: 1 to 10 bu., 90c per bu.; 10 bu. and over, 80c per bu. Bags free, f. o. b. here.

Texas Red Rust-Proof Oats—Iron Clad—Never Fail to Make Good

Boone County, Indiana, Jan. 17th, 1909.
I bought ten bushels of your Texas Red Rust-proof Oats two years ago and they have proven a wonderful success. Each year since have sold all surplus above my own requirements for seed to my neighbors and not half enough to supply the demand. Very respectfully, O. F. Lane.

Ray County, Mo., Jan. 25th, 1910.
The 25 bushels of Texas Red Rust-proof Oats I got from you in 1907 have become the leading oat in this locality, as each year I have sold all my surplus for seed to my neighbors. This year my oats made a yield of 55 bushels per acre and all my neighbors who sowed these oats had from 10 to 25 bushels better yield per acre than from other varieties. J. S. Moyor.


Yield over 100 Bus. per acre.
RATEKIN'S NEW SENSATION OATS.
Introduced 1903

The Earliest to Mature and the Largest in Yield

RATEKIN'S NEW SENSATION OATS is another of the best known varieties and a variety that should not be overlooked. We were the originators and introducers of this splendid early variety of oats, and have grown and sold thousands of bushels of them East, West, North and South, during the last eight years. Since we first introduced and catalogued them they have made a reputation second to no other variety as an exceedingly heavy and reliable yielder. They are noted for their vigorous growth, strong, stiff, heavy straw, resisting rust and blight to a degree almost unknown to any other variety.

DESCRIPTION.—Strong, stiff straw; sprangle head; grain large, plump and fat, thin hull, running over weight from 8 to 10 pounds per measured bushel, yielding from 60 to 100 bushels per acre on ordinary good land under normal conditions. Hundreds of our customers have written us that on account of its strong, stiff straw and its early maturity these oats stand up perfectly under weather conditions that cause other varieties to go down and lodge. Our prices make it possible for every farmer to get a start, or even sow his entire crop to this variety. In addition to your own requiements, you can readily sell all your surplus for seed at a greatly advanced price above the market to your neighbors. While our stock is somewhat limited on this variety we have a good supply on hand at the present time, and would suggest that you order early to avoid disappointment.

PRICE: 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60, postpaid. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: 1 bu. of 32 lbs., $1.00; 2 bu., $1.90; 10 bu. and over, 90c; 50 bu. and over, 85c per bu. Bags free f. o. b. here.

Sauk County, Wisconsin, Dec. 1st.
The New Sensation Oats I got from you last year made me a yield of 92 bushels per acre; the finest oats I ever saw. Send me your 1910 catalog; will want a lot of seeds this year. Adolph F. Schmidt.

Black Hawk County, Iowa, Dec. 26th, 1910.
Please send me your new catalogue as soon as ready for mailing. The New Sensation Oats I got from you last spring were really the sensation of this country. They grew five feet high and tops were as level as a pond of water. They ripened July 8th and threshed out 96 bushels per acre. How is that? Of course I'm pleased. Send me your 1911 catalog as soon as ready for mailing. Samuel F. Miller.

ALEX MILLER, OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, IOWA, WRITES: "I NEVER SAW ANYTHING TO EQUAL THEM. THEY RUN OUT OF THE SPOUT LIKE A MILL-RACE:" ABRAHAM MERRIT, OF ENID, OKLAHOMA, SAYS: "THEY ARE THE EARLIEST AND HEAVIEST YIELDING OATS I EVER SAW. I SHALL SOW NO OTHER VARIETY."

Ratekin's New Kherson Oats

IMPORTED FROM RUSSIA

Without a blemish. Without a flaw. The most wonderful oats this country has ever had. John R. Lang, of Sherman County, Nebraska, raised 112 bushels per acre. John Sipple, of Guthrie County, Iowa, says the Kherson pruduced double the yield of common oats on his place.

This new variety of oats was discovered by Prof. F. W. Taylor, the superintendent of the Agricultural Department of the great World's Fair of St. Louis, when he was traveling in the province of Kherson, Russia, in 1900. They were first imported into this country and grown at the Nebraska Agricultural Experimental Station, where they proved such a great success they sent out small lots to farmers all over the state, and tests everywhere proved that these oats exceeded the highest expectations as to earliness, amount of yield and adaptability to withstand heavy winds and not lodge. The Kherson oats are about three weeks earlier to ripen than ordinary varieties of oats. The plant is a vigorous but somewhat dwarf growth, being shorter or not so tall as later varieties, hence not so liable to lodge. The leaves are broad, frequently three-fourths of an inch wide. They extend to the roots. The straw makes unusual good fodder and is eaten greedily by stock. The heads have fine large sprangled or full heads, which very frequently have more than 100 seeds. A good idea is obtained from the accompanying illustration. We can confidently advise our customers to sow liberally of these oats the coming season. The Kherson oats will always make you a good, sure and certain crop whether the season is wet or dry. The demand for these oats has been almost unparalleled and we have been unable to supply the great demand for them in the past. They have stood the test on more than 15,000 farms in Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas during the past two years and despite unfavorable conditions have produced heavily everywhere. No sort ever tested has so thoroughly and completely shown its capability to withstand drouth or wet weather as the Kherson. It is bug proof and rust proof. It's quick to get there. It's ready to cut, thresh and feed before ordinary sorts are ripe. It gives big yields. It's the last 20 to 40 bushels per acre that makes farming profitable. If common oats yield 30 or 40 bushels and the Kherson gives you 60 to 70 bushels, the last 30 or 40 bushels would be your profits.

COST. The price we are offering these oats at is ridiculously low, and every farmer who reads this catalog should try at least a part of his crop to these oats the coming season.

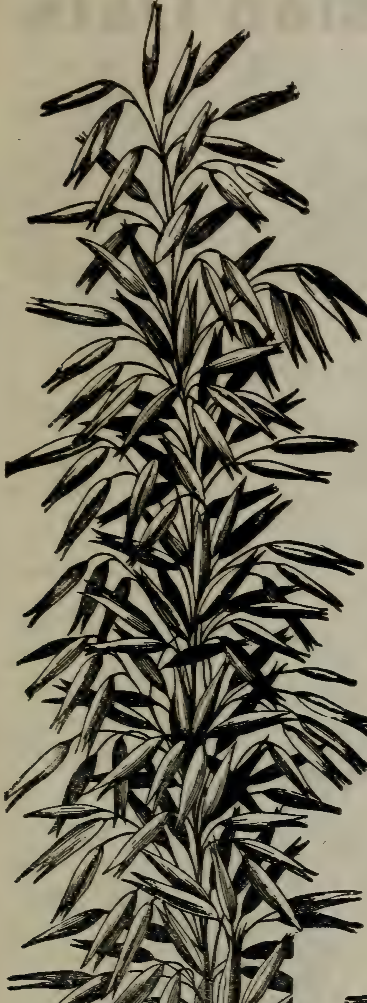
PRICE: 1 to 5 bushels, 85c per bu.; 10 to 20 bushels and upward, 80c per bushel. Bags free on board cars here.

York, Nebraska, Sept. 15th.

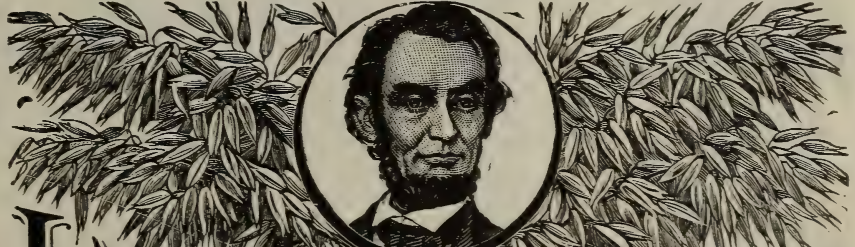
Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa.

Gentlemen:—The New Kherson Oats I got from you last spring are just what you claimed for them. "They are without a blemish. Without a flaw. The most wonderful oats this country has ever had." I threshed 1,270 bushels from 10 acres. How is that? Tell the farmers everywhere to sow the Kherson Oats. There is none like them. The early dry weather done up other sorts here, and I will sell every bushel I have for seed.

Yours truly, John Shubert.



NEW KHERSON OATS.



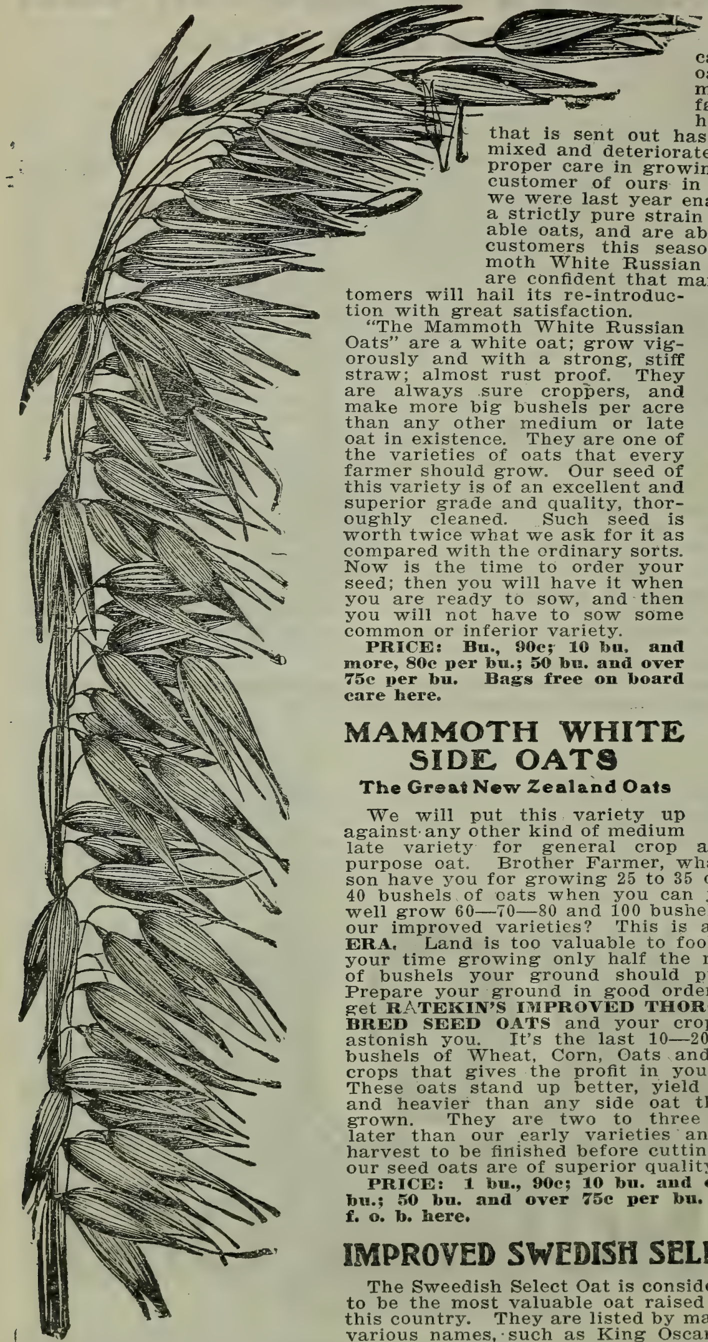
Among all good varieties of oats don't overlook the Lincoln Oats. Like "Old Abe" they are never found wanting. They are very early and an enormous yielder. These oats were first introduced 15 years ago and have fully sustained themselves as one of the largest yielders grown. After visiting around and trying many of the so-called new varieties, farmers naturally turn back to them. It is not claimed for them that they have made 300 bushels yield per acre. This is out of reason and the experience of all practical farmers, but they will run very closely around 80 to 100 bushels per acre under favorable conditions. We have the pure, genuine seed and considering cleaning and grading we are offering them very cheap.

PRICE: Bushel, 90c; 2 bushels, $1.75; 10 bushels and over, 75c per bushel. Bags free, f. o. b. here.

RATEKIN'S EARLY CHAMPION. Time tried, thoroughly tested and always a sure cropper. They are well known, well established and can always be relied upon for a good yield and a sure crop. They are the best for spring nurse crop to grass and clover. They grow a short, stiff straw; stand up well and ripen very early. We would rather risk growing grass and clover with Early Champion and Kherson Oats than any other varieties kown or grown.

PRICE: 1 to 10 bu., 60c per bushel; 10 bu. and over, 75c per bushel. Bags free, f. o. b. here.

Mammoth White Russian Oats



MAMMOTH WHITE RUSSIAN OATS.

The original stock of **White Russian Oats** was really a capital variety of oats, and sprang immediately into great favor. Of late years, however, most seed that is sent out has become badly mixed and deteriorated through improper care in growing. Through a customer of ours in North Dakota we were last year enabled to obtain a strictly pure strain of these valuable oats, and are able to offer our customers this season Pure Mammoth White Russian Oats, and we are confident that many of our customers will hail its re-introduction with great satisfaction.

"The Mammoth White Russian Oats" are a white oat; grow vigorously and with a strong, stiff straw; almost rust proof. They are always sure croppers, and make more big bushels per acre than any other medium or late oat in existence. They are one of the varieties of oats that every farmer should grow. Our seed of this variety is of an excellent and superior grade and quality, thoroughly cleaned. Such seed is worth twice what we ask for it as compared with the ordinary sorts. Now is the time to order your seed; then you will have it when you are ready to sow, and then you will not have to sow some common or inferior variety.

PRICE: Bu., 90c; 10 bu. and more, 80c per bu.; 50 bu. and over 75c per bu. Bags free on board care here.

MAMMOTH WHITE SIDE OATS

The Great New Zealand Oats

We will put this variety up against any other kind of medium late variety for general crop and all purpose oat. Brother Farmer, what reason have you for growing 25 to 35 or even 40 bushels of oats when you can just as well grow 60—70—80 and 100 bushels with our improved varieties? This is a **NEW ERA.** Land is too valuable to fool away your time growing only half the number of bushels your ground should produce. Prepare your ground in good order; then get **RATEKIN'S IMPROVED THOROUGHBRED SEED OATS** and your crops will astonish you. It's the last 10—20 or 30 bushels of Wheat, Corn, Oats and other crops that gives the profit in your crop. These oats stand up better, yield bigger and heavier than any side oat there is grown. They are two to three weeks later than our early varieties and allow hay harvest to be finished before cutting them. All our seed oats are of superior quality this year.

PRICE: 1 bu., 90c; 10 bu. and over, 80c per bu.; 50 bu. and over 75c per bu. Bags free, f. o. b. here.

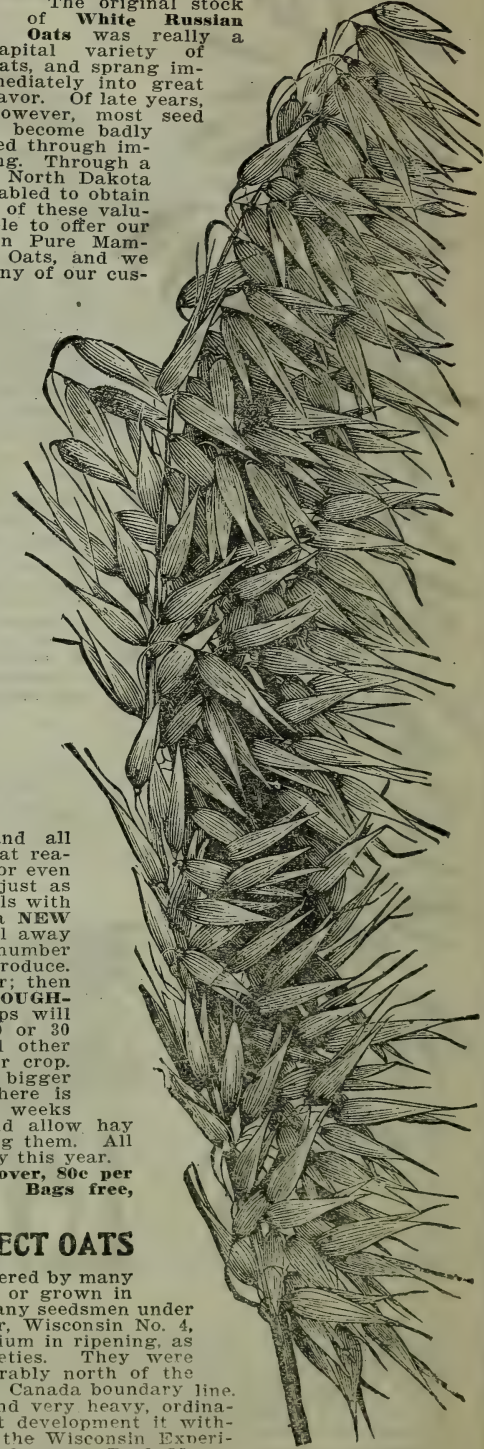
IMPROVED SWEDISH SELECT OATS

The Sweedish Select Oat is considered by many to be the most valuable oat raised or grown in this country. They are listed by many seedsmen under various names, such as King Oscar, Wisconsin No. 4, and other names. They are a medium in ripening, as between our early and late varieties. They were originated in Sweden, and considerably north of the line dividing the United States and Canada boundary line.

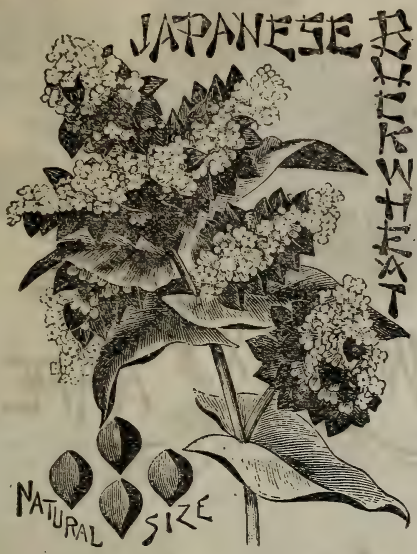
DESCRIPTION. Strong, stiff straw; grain short, plump, white and very heavy, ordinarily averaging 40 lbs. to measured bushel. Owing to its great root development it withstands and resists drouth better than almost any other sort. At the Wisconsin Experimental Station it has stood at the head of the list for a number of years. Prof. Moore, of Wisconsin, says: "It is the most satisfactory of all." Prof. Carleton, of U. S. Department of Agriculture, says: "Probably the best in America." Prof. Shepard, of the South Dakota Station, says: "They are the best drought resister of all other sorts."

PRICE: ¼ bu., 40c; bu., $1.20; 2 bu., $2.20; 10 bu., $1.05 per bu.; 50 bu. and over, $1.00 per bu.

Remember that every bushel of seed oats sent out by us is thoroughly recleaned and graded, absolutely **FREE FROM ANY TRASH OR NOXIOUS WEED SEED WHATEVER,** and when you get them they are ready to sow.



MAMMOTH WHITE SIDE OATS.



Mammoth Winter White Rye

We have wondered many times why every farmer did not sow at least a few acres of winter rye. When we lived on the farm we considered rye one of the most convenient and profitable crops that could be planted on any farm. In the first place it is a sure crop—failure being almost if not entirely unknown. It can be sown as nearly any time in the year as any other crop, when the ground is not frozen. Many sow it in the early spring for quick and vigorous pasture; others sow it in their corn before the last plowing, and continue to sow it from that time on up until just before the ground freezes. We have sown it so late that it did not get through the ground before freezing up, and still it came on the next spring and made a yield of 40 bushels per acre. The best time for sowing, however, for good crop is about September 10th, thus making splendid fall pasture as well as early spring pasture, after which it will give you a splendid and profitable crop for grain. Our **Mommoth White Winter Rye** is of an extra quality and strain, from a crop that made 47 bushels per acre machine measure. It will please you, no matter what you want it for, pasture or grain.

PRICE: Peck, 40c; 1 bu., $1.10; 10 bu. or more, $1.00 per bu. Bags free on board cars here.

New Japanese Buckwheat

This is the most wondrous prolific hardy Buckwheat known, often yielding 50 to 60 bushels per acre. It is about a week earlier than Silver Hull and yields more. The quality of flour made from this variety is the equal if not the best of any other buckwheat, and is tremendously popular among the millers. Requires from half bushel to three pecks per acre; can be sown any time from middle of June to July 10th; best time is about July 1st.

PRICE: Peck, 50c; 1 bu. $1.50; 2 bu. or more, $1.40 per bu.; 10 bu., $1.35 per bu. Bags free.

Silver Hull Buckwheat

A good and popular variety. Grain is of light gray color, rounder than most other sorts. Very early and a splendid yielder. Many who have grown this variety are greatly infatuated with it.

PRICE: Peck, 50c; 1 bu., $1.50; 2 bu. or more, $1.40 per bu.; 10 bu. and over, $1.35 per bu. Bags free.

Seed Flax

A very profitable crop and it pays to own your own seed. Price subject to market changes.

PRICE: Pound, 25c; 3 lbs., 60c. By freight: Peck, 65c. Ask for price in quantity.

Broom Corn

IMPROVED EVERGREEN. For length, strength and straightness of brush this variety is unexcelled. It is of light green color without the slightest reddish tinge. It makes far the best brooms of any grown. Height 7 to 8 feet.

PRICE: By mail postpaid, lb., 30c. By freight: Peck, 60c; ½ bu., $1.10; 1 bu., $1.75.

DWARF EVERGREEN. This is a popular variety on account of its being not so liable to blow down and lodge as the taller varieties. Heads are very brushy and make a fine yield.

PRICE: By mail, postpaid, lb., 30c. By freight: Peck, 60c; ½ bu., $1.10; 1 bu., $1.75. Ask for prices on quantity.

Field Peas

"Peas can be made to bring more nitrogen to the soil of this country every year than is now purchased annually by the farmers at the cost of millions of dollars."—Year book of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It might be added to this authorative and authenticated statement that in addition to returning to the land the much needed nitrogen, peas are second only to clover in their soil enriching properties, but can be grown under almost any condition of climate and soil, even where clover and alfalfa will not grow, and as a hay crop they are a most profitable one, equaled in profitableness by neither. They should not be sown till the soil is warm. They can be sown after early wheat or oats are harvested and will make a growth to turn under for wheat and will greatly improve the ground and crop. The early 70-day sorts are best for this purpose. Peas will make on land of moderate fertility from two to 4 tons of hay, equal to clover, when sown broadcast at rate of 2 bushels per acre; when sown alone, 1½ bushels peas and 2 bushels oats. We cannot to strongly recommend common field peas to our farmer friends.

The following are the standard varieties and best adapted to general use and culture:

GOLDEN VINE FIELD PEAS.
CANADA FIELD PEAS.
WHIP-POOR-WILL COW PEAS.
THE CLAY.
EARLY SO-JO BEANS.

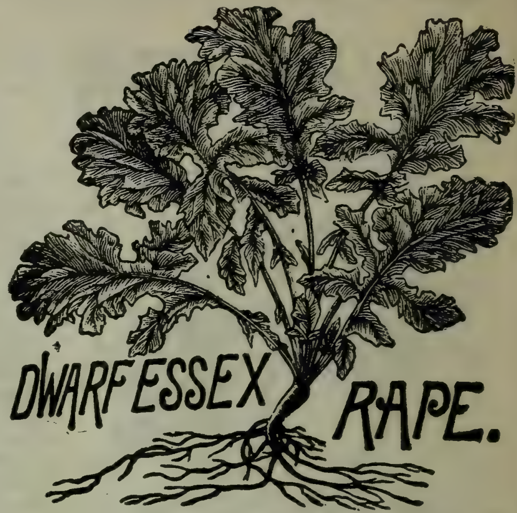
We omit making prices and quotations on above items for the reason that prices are so fluctuating that during the season there may be a wide variation in price and we may be entirely out of line with current prices at time ordered, but we will be glad to give you closest prices and quotations at any time upon request.

DWARF ESSEX RAPE

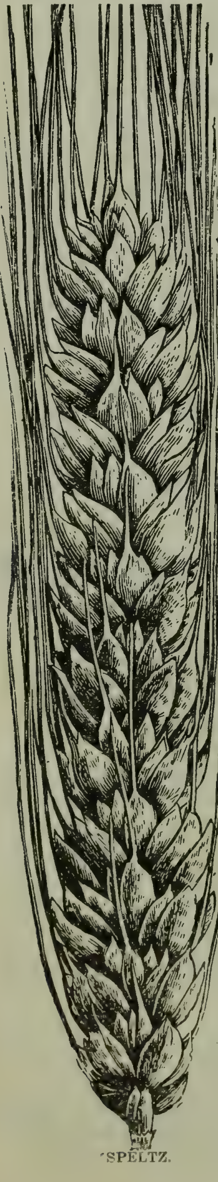
THE MOST PROFITABLE PASTURE PLANT IN EXISTENCE.

Come here, Mr. Farmer, until we tell you about Dwarf Essex Rape. One acre of Dwarf Essex Rape will pasture more hogs, cattle and sheep than six of clover or grass. As a healthy fattening pasture food it has no equal. It stands without a rival in point of cheapness and effectiveness. Hundreds of farmers have written us asking methods of rape culture. Why, it's the simplest crop grown in the world. You can sow it anywhere and everywhere and at all times after danger of frost is past until Sept. 1st, even later in the South. We have hundreds of customers who sow 50 to 500 lbs. each year. Rape is adapted as a catch crop and may be sown in the early spring to provide summer pasture for stock. Plow the ground same as for turnips and sow 5 lbs. per acre broadcast, or can be sown in corn and plowed in last plowing. Then after you have cut small grain, sow in stubble, running disc over the ground to give light covering. It can be sown in drills 30 inches apart and cultivated; then cut and thrown out to your stock. Planted this way, use 2 lbs. seed per acre. There is nothing so easily and profitably grown, and practically at no cost. Sow Rape; it will please and profit you. Our seed is pure Dwarf Essex, imported direct from Essex, England, new crop grown.

PRICE: 1 lb., by mail, postpaid, 25c; 5 lbs. (will sow an acre), $1.00. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: 10 lbs., $1.00; 25 lbs., $2.25; 50 lbs., $4.00; 100 lbs., $7.00. Bags free.


DWARF ESSEX RAPE.

[illegible]


'SPELTZ.

Emmer or Speltz

WHAT IS SPELTZ? This question has been asked us a thousand times during the past ten years. **SPELTZ IS A CEREAL TO SOW.** It has **TEN THOUSAND POINTS IN ITS FAVOR AND NOT ONE BAD ONE.**—Is good for everything any other cereal crops are. It's good for pasture; fattens in the green state. It makes the best of hay. It grows a 100 leafy stalk from one seed. It's the most profitable hay and grain food combined on earth. It will grow any where that any other grain crop will. It's the greatest drouth resister in the world, yet never affected by rains. It neither rusts, blights or lodges. It matures earlier than oats or spring wheat. It yields 10 to 20 bushels more per acre than oats; it's equal to corn, barley, oats, rye as a food. Hogs squeal for it; cattle bawl for it and horses neigh for it. One farmer said: **"IF YOU SOW SPELTZ FIVE YEARS YOU CAN WEAR DIAMONDS,** and your wife **CAN WEAR SILK AND SATIN,** and when your friends come to visit you, you can take them out in an automobile."

We have sold thousands of bushels each year for the past ten years, sending it to every state in the Union, and never sold a bushel but has pleased our customers. Why not? It's the surest crop ever planted. It yields enormously. It's the richest food out. For fattening cattle and swine it can't be beat. **IT FATTENS.** It makes the best of beef and pork and does it cheaply. Try it, Mr. Farmer. It will surprise your best expectations.

Culture of Speltz

The culture of Speltz is simplicity itself. It will grow and do well on any kind of ground. Prepare your ground as you would for wheat or oats and sow at the rate of 2 bushels or 80 lbs. to the acre. In the green state it makes an excellent pasture. Cut when in the milk and it will make a splendid hay crop. For grain crop cut when ripe and thresh same as other small grain. It is extremely hardy and can be sown earlier than spring wheat or oats, a light freeze or frost will not affect it. It can also be sown as late as any other small grain, but we recommend sowing as early as conditions will admit. Speltz is one of the things we like to endorse, and delight in urging you to sow. You will never regret it, and when you once sow it you will always grow it.

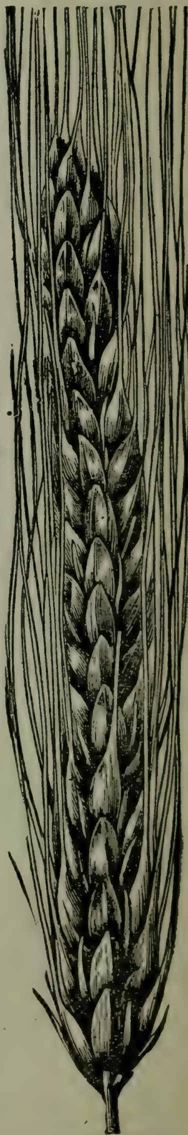
We have made our prices lower than ever before; we want every farmer who receives this catalog to try 10 or 20 bushels; the more the better pleased you will be.

PRICE: 1 bu., $1.10; 10 bu., $1.00 per bu.; 20 bu. and more, 90c per bu. Bags free on board cars here.

Ratekin's Mansury Barley

This is the standard well known variety grown to the exclusion of all other varieties in the barley growing districts like California, Wisconsin and other states where barley is the chief product. It is a six rowed variety, introduced about 12 years ago by the Department of Agriculture, and its wonderful productiveness has surpassed all other sorts. It ripens early; has strong stiff straw, with long heavy heads filled to the end with nice plump kernels. Barley is a very profitable crop. As to its feeding qualities for horses, cattle and hogs, there is nothing that equals it. We have grown thousands of bushels of this barley strictly for Seed. There is nothing so healthy for hogs. Mansury Barley can be relied upon to yield 50 to 65 bushels per acre, and comes when you need it most. It will do well on any kind of land, or in any locality where any other crop will grow. Try it once and you will never be without it.

PRICE: Bu., $1.25; 2 bu., $1.40; 10 bu., $1.25. Bags free.


MANSHURY BARLEY.

Ratekin's Success Beardless Barley

Many farmers do not like to grow the bearded varieties of barley on account of the disagreeableness in handling it, altho it is a very profitable crop. This beardless barley is as easy to grow and handle as oats. It is the earliest known variety to ripen; grows medium height, very strong, stiff straw and will stand up on any kind of land. With good land and fair conditions yields 60 to 75 bushels per acre, and in many instances has made the enormous yield of 100 to 120 bushels per acre. Look at our very low prices, as compared with prices of other seedsmen.

PRICE: Bu., $1.65; 2 bu., $3.20; 10 **bu., $15.00. Bags** free.

TEOSINITE

This strong growing annual grass, or fodder crop, is a native of Central America, and does not mature its seed in the northern states. But it produces more forage than any other known plant. It is one, if not the most excellent stock foods known to mankind. It grows from 8 to 12 feet high, and somewhat resembles Indian corn. It has the habit of tillering or stooling at the root; probably more than any other plant. The stalks are tender and there is no waste as stock devour every vestige of it and there is no waste. Cultivate the same as you would corn. It requires only 3 lbs. of seed per acre.

PRICE: Packet, 10c; ounce, 15c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 85c; 3 lbs. (enough to plant one acre), $2.25; postpaid by mail; 10 lbs., express or freight at purchasers expense, $12.00.

JERUSALEM CORN or MILO MAIZE

This is justly claimed to be the surest crop for dry seasons and arid conditions in existence. It grows about 3 to 4 feet high and makes one large main stalk and head and a half-dozen or more smaller ones and produces a most wonderful amount of fodder and forage. In the Panhandle districts of Texas and other arid regions it is the chief crop—taking the place of Indian corn as a stock feed for both grain and forage.

PRICE: Packet, 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs. (enough to plant one acre), 65c; postpaid by mail, per bu., 56 lbs., $3.25. By freight or express at expense of purchaser.

HEADS OF WHITE HULLESS BARLEY.

RATEKIN'S WHITE HULLESS BARLEY

(Continued from last page)

ITS VALUABLE PROPERTIES:
IT IS HULLESS.
IT IS BEARDLESS.
IT WEIGHS 60 LBS. TO THE MEASURED BUSHEL.
IT DOES WELL ON ANY GROUND.
YIELDS ENORMOUSLY ON GOOD LAND.
IT MAKES BETTER PORK THAN CORN.
IT IS OF INESTIMABLE VALUE FOR ALL KINDS OF STOCK.

No barley of which we have knowledge has proved as valuable to the stock raiser as the White Hulless. It is not a malting variety, but for feeding purposes there is no barley raised which can compare with it. Its earliness is a characteristic which is especially desirable. It will mature in from 60 to 90 days, according to soil and locality. Farmers use it very extensively as a catch crop. White Hulless Barley sown in June has ample opportunity to mature, provided there is sufficient moisture in the ground to start germination.

The grain is exceedingly heavy, weighing from 60 to 63 lbs. to the measured bushel. The yield varies according to soil and climatic conditions, but it can be depended upon to produce from 35 to 80 bushels an acre. It is fed to work horses at the rate of 2 quarts where 4 quarts of oats would be required. It is also very valuable for feeding hogs and all kinds of stock. As fattening feed for hogs it has no equal.

It is often grown for hay, coming very early and providing rich feed. It should be cut just before it becomes ripe and while the straw is green. The straw is stiff and straight, and seldom ever lodges.

For grain sow 1½ bushels to the acre; for hay, 2 bushels—96 lbs.

PRICE: 1 bu., $2.00; 10 bu. and over, $1.90 per bu. Bags free. 48 lbs. per bu.

SPRING WHEAT, PEDIGREE STOCK

PRICES. **We are obliged to ask a considerable advance over the market price for our High Grade Seed Wheat, as there is very much larger cost attached to its production and preparation than any one who has not had the experience could possibly appreciate. Space does not permit of going into detail, but, as a matter of fact, the prices named below for the larger quantities represent but a slight advance over the actual cash outlay to us. We believe that farmers who want to change their seed will find it very much to their advantage to secure enough, at least, to give them a start.**

RATEKIN'S BIG RED FIFE SPRING WHEAT. This is the wheat used in the Orange Judd Farmer contest of 1906, and is stock selected by Prof. Shaw and the Orange Judd Farmer and American Agriculturist as being the purest and healthiest stock of Hard Wheat to be obtained anywhere at any price. It is the wheat that made Minneapolis flour famous all over the world, and is undoubtedly the finest stock of milling wheat in existence.
PRICE: 1 bu., $2.00; 10 bu. and over, $1.75.

MACARONI OR DURUM WHEAT. Sent out by the United States Department of Agriculture under strong recommendation as to its great value for semi-arid lands where good crops of Spring Wheat could not ordinarily be produced, has more than justified every claim made for it. The acreage of this variety is increasing every year. It outyields any other variety of Spring Wheat, and it has been demonstrated that it makes bread superior to that made from the best Fife Wheat flour, and has proved to be practically immune to the dreaded rust. In growing it resists extremes of weather which no other wheat will endure. It is now being received in the largest wheat markets in the world and sells readily at a price with the very best Fife Wheat.

In the field this wheat grows very strong and with surprising rapidity, so rapidly as to get well ahead of the weeds. It does not shell or bleach and is also hail proof owing to the tightness of the hull. The straw is very strong.

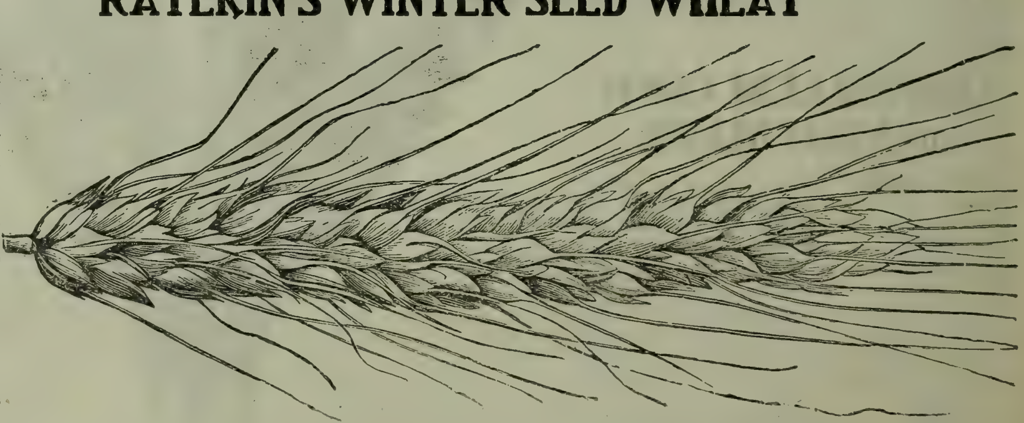
Even though Macaroni Wheat is sold at a discount, the increased yield makes it more profitable to grow.
PRICE: 1 bu., $1.75; 2 bu., $3.30; 10 bu., $15.50. Special prices in larger quantities.

PEDIGREED BLUE STEM SPRING WHEAT. A distinct variety from all other Spring Wheats; green, has a beautibul blue bloom on it similar to the bloom on a grape, and which can be removed by passing the finger over the stem. This bloom disappears as the wheat ripens, and the stem and straw assume a beautiful golden-yellow hue, and entirely free from rust. This variety has no beards and is especially adapted to the older wheat growing sections of the Northwest. The kernel is of the hard variety, similar to the Red Fife; very productive; one of the best Spring Wheats for milling. **PRICE: 1 lb., 25c, postpaid. By express or freight: ¼ bu., 60c; bu., $2.00; 2 bu., $3.80; 10 bu., $18.50; 50 bu., $90.00. Bags free.**

MINNESOTA No. 163 FIFE WHEAT. Of the many crosses obtained within the past twelve years the one sent out by the station as Minnesota No. 163, takes a high rank. The heads are long, well filled with medium sized, plump kernels. Flour made from this variety shows a higher gluten test than most sorts. The straw is medium height, very strong and wiry. At the station farm this variety averaged two to five bushels an acre more than the Fife and Blue Stem varieties. The average yield of Minnesota No. 163 Wheat for the past 13 years has been 26.4 bushels an acre. This tells a story which should interest every intelligent grower of Spring Wheat. Our crop was grown in North Dakota on land which had not grown wheat for a number of years, and is very pure. **PRICE: By freight or express, at purchaser's expense: ¼ bu., 65c; bu., $2.15; 2 bu., $4.10; 10 bu., $20.00. Bags free.**

RATEKIN'S WINTER SEED WHEAT

Our Winter Seed Wheat Catalog will be ready for mailing about August 1st, in which prices will be given; also Mammoth White Rye, Grass and Clover Seed, etc., etc. If interested in wheat or any seeds send us your name and request us to mail catalog to you as soon as issued or write for it any time after August 1st, and it will be mailed to you promptly. **Let us hear from you.**



"**RATEKIN'S NEW 'MALAKOFF' and 'TURKISH RED'** stands first and at the head of all other varieties." Both are extremely hardy, and will resist more unfavorable conditions, than any varieties in existence. They are as hardy as Winter Rye and will do well anywhere rye will succeed. We also grow the pure, genuine Fultz, it being a soft beardless variety.

FIELD CARROT

Saved from carefully selected stock. This is an indispensable root for the farm and is deserving of more general cultivation. They succeed best on sandly soil. When well managed there is no crop which will pay better.

IMPROVED LONG ORANGE.

A standard sort for field culture, and also desirable for table use.

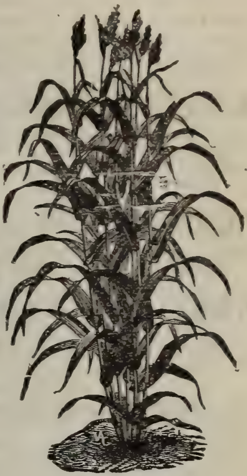
PRICE: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; 1 lb., 50c, postpaid. By express, 5 lbs. or more, at 35c.

VICTORIA. The largest and most productive variety. **PRICES: Per pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 75c, postpaid. By express, 5 lbs., or more, at 50c per lb.**

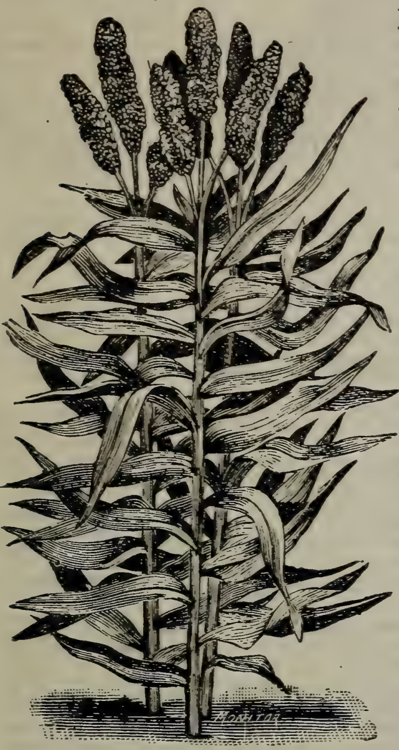
EARLY AMBER CANE

It would seem unnecessary to speak about cane and its great value as a fodder plant, yet there are thousands of farmers that don't have the least conception of its wonderful value. There is no fodder plant that produces as quickly and easily, rich, luscious fodder for milch cows, sheep and cattle as amber cane. Dairy farmers say there is nothing like it in existence for their use. Its great merit as a food for live stock is only beginning to be appreciated. Ten tons per acre can be grown easily, and it is claimed by some—much more. It can be successfully grown from Manitoba to Texas and from California to Maine. For fodder or hay crop sow 100 lbs. per acre.

PRICES: Subject to market change. Per lb., by mail postpaid, 20c; 3 lbs., 50c. By freight or express at purchaser's expense, 10 lbs., 50c; 25 lbs., 85c; 100 lbs., 500 lbs., or more, write for prices.



AMBER CANE.



KAFFIR CORN.

KAFFIR CORN

THE CROP THAT RESISTS DRY WEATHER AND LAUGHS AT DROUTHS.

This is the fodder crop that grows when it's dry weather and when it's wet weather. Drouth cannot touch it. It snaps its finger at the beaming hot sun and hot winds. It's there to grow, rain or shine. It grows and keeps growing no matter what comes. It's one of the most excellent fodder plants in existence, yielding two crops of fodder during a season. It grows from six to eight feet in height, making a straight, upright growth. The stem of the stalk is laden with numerous wide blades. The stalks keep green and are brittle and juicy, making excellent fodder green or dried. The seed crop is also heavy, sometimes yieldidng 60 bus. per acre. There is no failure about it, as it possesses the quality that all the tribes possess of going without rain, without any loss of capacity to yield. The grain is extremely valuable for feeding poultry, and when cracked or ground coarsely is almost as nutritious as corn, oats and barley. It will fatten hogs and keep them healthy and thrifty. You will simply be surprised at results. Cultivate the same as our common Indian Corn, requiring 5 lbs. of seed per acre. For fodder sow 1 bu. per acre, either broadcast or drill.

PRICE: Pound, by mail postpaid, 20c; 3 lbs., 50c. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, 50c; per bu., 100 to 500 lbs. or more, write for prices.

MANGEL - WURTZELS AND STOCK BEETS.

YIELD 50 TONS PER ACRE

The value of Mangel-Wurtzels for feeding stock, cattle, sheep and swine cannot be overestimated. The results from their use are simply wonderful. No one who keeps horses, cattle, sheep or swine should fail to plant liberally of this invaluable root crop. They are the most nutritious food for fattening in the winter that is grown. They keep your stock hungry, healthy and fat; they increase the flow of milk as no other food. They yield enormously, often making as high as 40 to 60 tons per acre. There is nothing that can be grown at such trifling cost.

Five to Six Pounds of Seed Will Plant an Acre

CULTURE.—Sow in drills two feet apart when suitable time comes for sowing oats and planting corn. When plants are two or three inches high thin or cut out with hoe to 8 to 12 inches apart. The roots should be harvested before frost and stored in pits or cellar. Brother Farmer, don't fail to plant a liberal amount of these root vegetables for your stock this year. They are a veritable gold mine to you. Long varieties are best suited to deep rich soil. Globe sorts succeed better than long ones on thin or sandy soil. They make a heavy growth, and if large quantities are grown it is best to have the rows wide enough apart to use a horse and cultivator.

RATEKIN'S IMPROVED MAMMOTH LONG RED MANGEL is the best Long Red there is grown. They are good and of massive shape, growing to immense size, but are of fine texture; not coarse. They are easily harvested as they grow well over the ground. We select only the largest roots true to type to produce our seed. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 15c; 1 lb., 35c; 4 lbs., $1.25, postpaid. By express at purchaser's expense, in 5 to 10 lb, lots and over, 25c per lb.**

All the following varieties of Mangel-Wurtzels and sugar beets are put up in our regular large sized packets at **5c each, postpaid.**

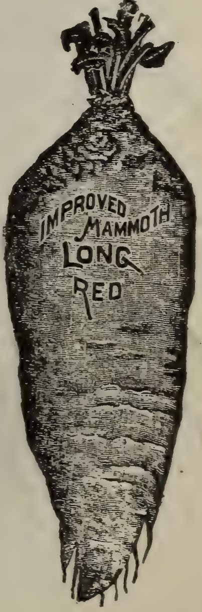
GATE POST MANGEL. Most useful, largest and best, yellow, of ten weighing 40 lbs., producing 2,000 to 2,500 bushels per acre. **PRICE: 1 lb., 60c; 4 lbs., $2.00.**

GOLDEN GIANT INTERMEDIATE (Yellow Leviathan). Grows more than half above ground, flesh white, firm and sweet. **PRICE: 1 lb., 50c; 4 lbs., $1.60.**

RED GLOBE MANGEL. An early variety, producing smooth glove-shaped roots; adapted to grow on shallow soil **PRICE: 1 lb., 40c; 4 lbs., $1.25.**

RATEKIN'S GOLDEN TANKARD MANGEL. Is considered the best Mangel grown by a large part of our customers. Our stock is of superior strain and quality and unequalled for yield and feeding quality. It is remarkable for its milk producing qualities. The growth is vigorous. It is easily pulled or lifted from the ground and is an enormous producer. With good ordinary cultivation and land it yields 40 to 50 tons per acre, and some of our customers claim to have grown as high as 60 to 70 tons from one acre of ground under good conditions. **PRICE: 1 lb., 40c; 4 lbs., $1.50, postpaid.**

In making up your order, don't fail to order some of these stock beets; they are all of the very best and most productive varieties grown. Above prices are postpaid to any postoffice in the United States. One-half pound will be sent at pound prices and rates.



FIELD PUMPKINS

We place Pumpkins among our field seeds for the reason that they should be in every cornfield. When we were a boy every fifth row in the field was reserved for pumpkins. Hundreds of loads of pumpkins can be grown in every cornfield without a cent of cost. They need no tending further than what is needed for the cultivation of the corn. Hundreds of our customers have grown wagon loads of pumpkins for the mere cost of the seed, which practically amounts to nothing. There is nothing on the farm thatpays so well that can be grown at the same cost. We want to urge our customers and every farmer to raise pumpkins. You don't need to be told how profitable pumpkins are.

KING OF MAMMOTHS. This now famous pumpkin first came to our attention while visiting France a few years ago. We secured seed and distributed among our customers, just as we do in testing all new varieties. The results have been most astonishing. No other pumpkin has ever reached such enormous size and weights. Many of them grow as large as a common washtub, weighing from 100 to 150 lbs. The flesh and skin is of a golden yellow, and notwithstanding its wonderful size it makes a splendid table pumpkin. Our seed has been saved from the very best specimens, and you can depend upon it as being the best pumpkin ever before introduced.
PRICE: Pkt., 10c; ¼ lb., 40c; per lb., $1.50.

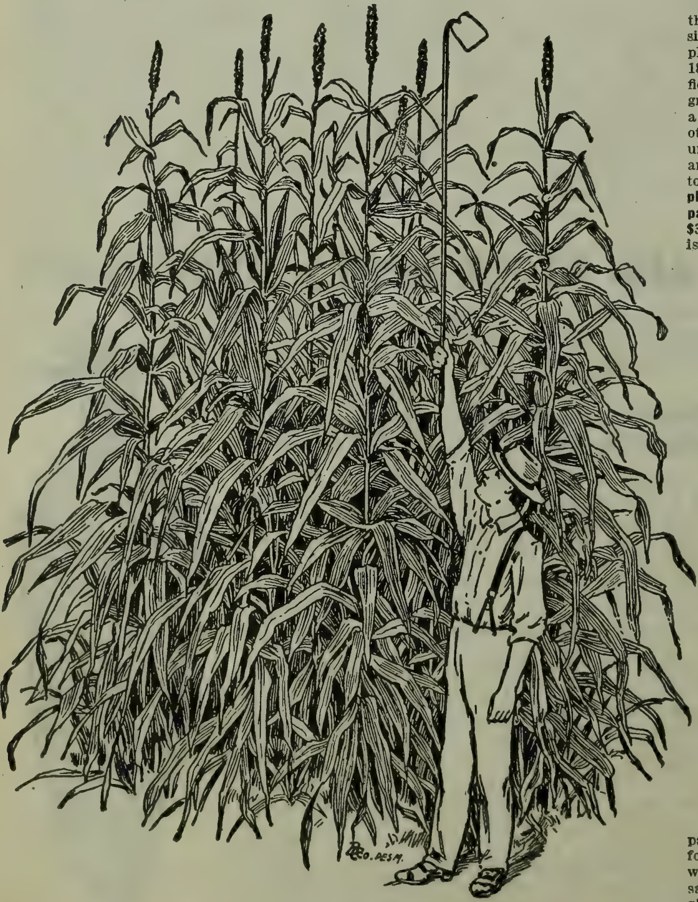
CONNECTICUT FIELD PUMPKIN. This widely known Pumpkin is known as "Yankee Cow Pumpkin," and there is no variety that will do so well among corn. Plant them on your richest land and you will be amply repaid. They are the kind that never fails.
PRICE: 1 lb., 40c; 3 lbs., $1.00; 5 lbs., $1.50, postpaid.

KENTUCKY OR SWEET PUMPKINS. These are the thick meated, sweet kind for table use and pies. They are also extra good for stock, but do not thrive as well in corn as the Yankee Pumpkin. Many farmers plant a patch of them by themselves on an acre or two of land and it pays them big. What you don't want for family use is always prifitable to feed to your cows and hogs. Our prices are extremely low and no one can sell you pure stock of this variety at a less price.
PRICES: 1 lb., 40c; 3 lbs., $1.00, postpaid. 8c per lb. less if sent at your expense. 10 to 20 lbs. and over, by freight or express, 25c per lb.

YANKEE PIE PUMPKIN. We are sure there never was any pumpkin introduced that has given more genuine satisfaction to our customers as a Pie Pumpkin. This pumpkin is not large, but is of a delightful quality to make the best of pumpkin pies; just such as your mother used to make. We know you will like them. They will remind you of old times when you used to be little. They are extra early, remarkably prolific, yielding from 10 to 20 medium sized pumpkins to each vine. Flesh very thick and of fine grain, sweet and just the right flavor for pies. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 30c; 1 lb., $1.00; 5 lbs., $4.50.**

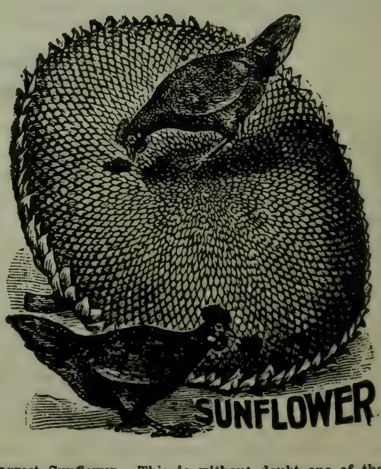
PENCILLARIA. A new fodder plant of untold value: To the farmer for its immense growth of hay; to the dairyman for its excellent fodder; to the stockman for its quick growing foliage; to the poultryman for seed. It is a native of Central America. It is an annual plant having broad foliage, very much resembling corn leaves. It is of rapid growth, throwing out from one plant numerous suckers, and if cut as soon as it reaches the height of two or three feet, it can be mowed from four to six times, according to the latitude, and yields several tons of dry hay per acre. If allowed to grow six or seven feet high and cut when the flower heads begin to develop it will yield the heaviest fodder crop per acre of any plant now in cultivation. For feeding it is equal to any fodder, and is relished by any kind of stock, either dry or green.

CULTURAL DIRECTIONS. If for hay purposes, sow very thinly in drills 12 to 18 inches apart, dropping a seed every six or eight inches, or broadcast 2 lb. per acre. As a fodder plant sow in drills 3 or 3½ feet apart, thinning out to stand 18 inches apart in the drill. When high enough cultivate the field thoroughly, as this may be the only opportunity, the growth becoming so dense that a cultivator could not be used a second time. As a **green** food it will support four cows and other stock in proportion, from the time it is 30 inches high until the end of the season. As a **seed** producer it must have ample space to grow in—2 to 3 feet apart in the rows, and 3 to 3½ feet between the rows. Cultivate twice. **PRICES: Per pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 15c; 1 lb., 35c; 3 lbs., $1.00, postpaid. By express or freight: 1 lb., 20c; 5 lbs., 90c; 25 lbs., $3.25; 100 lbs., $12.00.** Sow some of our Pencillaria. There is nothing better for fodder.



PENCILLARIA.

MAMMOTH RUSSIAN SUNFLOWER.



Largest Sunflower. This is without doubt one of the best paying crops that can be raised. Seeds are the best of food for poultry, and is much cheaper to raise than corn. Stalks, which grow very large, make excellent firewood. It is also said to afford protection against malaria. **PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; 1 lb., 20c; 3 lbs., 55c. By freight: 10 lbs., 70c; 1 bu. or 25 lbs., $1.50.**

Northern Grown Seed Potatoes

In order to secure the best possible yields, combined with the best quality, there is no crop grown that a change in seed is so essential as in seed potatoes. If our selected North Dakota grown are planted, 300 to 600 bushels can be as easily grown per acre as 50 to 100 bushels scrub stock. To grow a large crop of big fine healthy tubers will not cost any more than to grow a small crop of small poor potatoes, which are hardly marketable at any price.

Nothing gives us more genuine pleasure and satisfaction than the marvelous increase we have had in our potato trade since we have had our seed potatoes grown altogether in the extreme north. There is a world of difference between northern Dakota grown potatoes and Eastern, or one grown along the Lakes. We have taken potatoes grown in Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and New York and planted them side by side with the same varieties from North Dakota, and never got half a crop, while our Dakota potatoes would roll out by the hundreds of bushels per acre, often yielding 400 to 600 bushels per acre. Other potatoes would give us from 30 to 50 and sometimes as high as 150 bushels per acre, but this was a very rare yield. Our northern grown seed potatoes insure a vigorous growth, an early maturity and the largest crops and finest quality and flavor potatoes that can be grown. We have hundreds of customers who buy one to ten barrels a year for their planting purposes, because it more than doubly pays them. Think of 200, 300, 400, 500 and even 600 bushels per acre and then compare it with the average yield of potatoes from home grown sorts.

We ship our seed potatoes in the spring as soon as danger of freezing is over, so they will arrive in plenty of time for planting. All orders for potatoes are acknowledged as soon as received and forwarded the first day that we feel it is safe to start them. When shipment is ordered otherwise, shipment is made at purchaser's risk and we assume no responsibility on account of freezing. We do not charge for bags, boxes or barrels. All potatoes are carefully packed and delivered to the railroad company in good order and condition, then our responsibility ceases.

POUND PRICES: All varieties, 25c per lb.; 3 lbs., 60c; postpaid, except when otherwise noted.

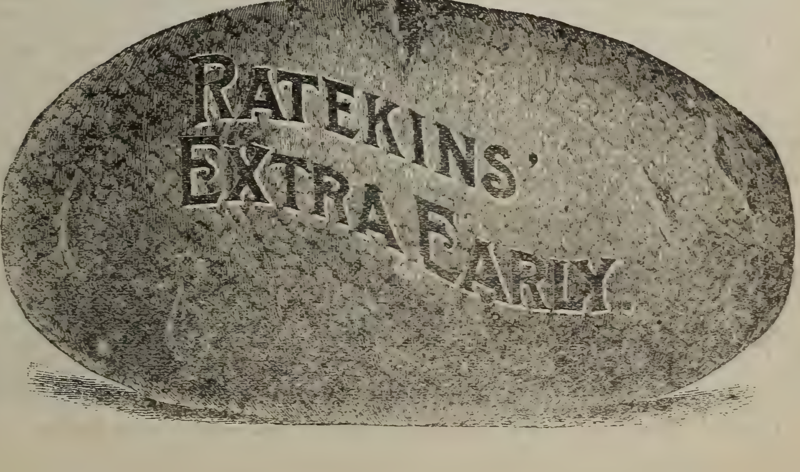
ORIGINATOR OF THE NEW MAJESTIC.

RATEKIN'S EXTRA EARLY 6 WEEKS

The Handsomest and Earliest Potato Ever Offered

Introduced by us five years ago, it now ranks as we predicted. "King of Earlies," and the great favorite with all who have planted it. Why, sir, we have had customers who lived in Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri who have planted it there that have moved to Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, who have sent back here two thousand miles away for seed to plant again. They all say it's the greatest early potato they ever found. Out in Dakota where we have these potatoes grown under special contract, it scoffs at dry weather and drouth, for it always gets there ahead of dry weather; then there is no potato grown that adapts itself to all kinds of conditions so readily as this early wonder. It is not only an extra early, six weeks potato, but it's good all summer and fall and through winter. In fact, there is no potato grown, early or late, of such fine keeping qualities. It is a handsome oblong, maturing ready for table use in 40 to 45 days from time of planting, or at least a week to ten days earlier than its nearest rival. As shown in the accompanying illustration, it is a very smooth even surface; white skin, and very white flesh. Tubers grow close together in the hill, and it is not unusual to get 10 to 15 good potatoes of marketable size from a single eye. The potatoes begin to form when the vines are only 4 or 5 inches high. The tops and tubers grow rapidly, and at six weeks from planting are of good marketable size. In short, they are the earliest, finest and best potato for family use and for truckers there is grown. Whether you want early potatoes for home use or early market, plant this variety liberally. They will fill the bill and surprise your best expectations.

PRICE: Postpaid, 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c. By freight or express, purchaser's expense: Peck, 60c; ½ bu., $1.00; 1 bu., $1.75; 5 bu. or more, $1.60 per bu.

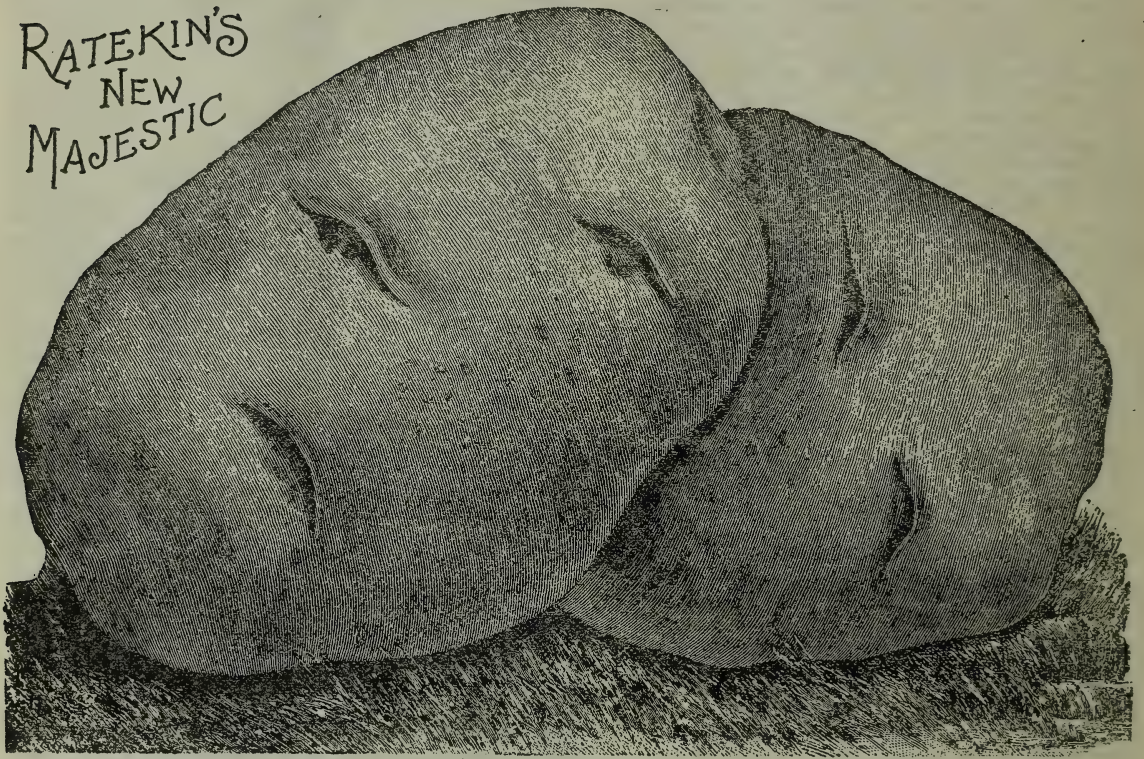


Ratekin's New Majestic

The World's Largest Early Potato

And the Man Who Originated It

(PHOTO ON PRECEDING PAGE.)



THE LARGEST, HANDSOMEST, SMOOTHEST AND BEST FLAVORED EARLY POTATO IN THE WORLD. Never before in the history of the potato world has there been such an enormous yielding Extra Early Potato introduced. The Finest, Grandest and Most Up to-date Early Potato ever offered, or introduced. As modest as we are, we cannot restrain our enthusiasm. Our word for it. It's a beauty such as you never saw before. We christened it "The Majestic." Ring the bells: Stand aside: Clear the track: Make room for this coming Potato: The Great Majestic, General Purpose Early Potatoes: None in the wide world its equal. It stands alone; The Great Majestic all purpose potatoe. Listen, Read, Order, Plant. Make money while you can. Here is your opportunity. We wish we had space to tell you all we know about this wonderful Large Early Potato. It is indeed the most handsome potato ever discovered. Just the right shape; just the right size. In fact, it is the ideal of all varieties. No potatoe is superior in eating qualities year in and year out. It stands to other potatoes as rich Jersey cream does to skimmed milk. As early as the earliest, and is better than the best.

It is a potatoe we know will not only make dollars for the grower, but will please him beyond doubt as well. A striking characteristic of this new Majestic beauty is its productiveness. We will say right here that it will yield you more big fine potatoes by far on the same amount of ground than any other sort ever before discovered. What more can we say? Need we say more. Our plea with you is to plant freely of this new potato. You will find it the most profitable potato you ever planted. We know you will thank us and become as enthusiastic as we when once you see the fine potatoes and enormous yield it produces. We know we will be unable to supply the enormous demand there will be for this new potato the coming season. If you are not ready to order your seeds now write us how many to reserve for you, making remittance to cover half your order; then when they can be shipped safely without danger of freezing send balance, and seed will be sent promptly and at once.

PRICE: Postpaid, 1 lb., 30c; 4 lbs., $1.00. By freight or express, purchaser's expense: Peck, 75c; ½ bu., $1.40; 1 bu., $2.50; 3 bu., $6.50.

Early Six Weeks

EARLIEST SIX WEEKS. This is a new potato of the Ohio type, and it seems to be in great favor everywhere. It is a good heavy yielder and is particularly adapted for the early garden, as it will produce good size, round to oblong, smooth tubers, ready for use everywhere in six weeks from planting, and the tubers will be in good condition for cooking, even when partly grown. Market gardeners and all others who grow potatoes cannot afford to be without this splendid early potato? We will say that the **Six Weeks** is planted by more people who want a few early potatoes in the garden than any other variety in existence. They grow so rapidly and mature so early that the potato bugs have no chance at all, making their crop, if planted early, before the young bugs become numerous, and the yield is always good, considering their extra earliness.

PRICE: Peck, 50c; ½ bu., 90c; 1 bu., $1.75; 5 bu. or over, $1.65 per bu.

SEED POTATOES

The Seed Potatoes for our trade this year are seed in every sense the word implies. They are not only the best we can supply, but the best that can be supplied from any source. Owing to dry weather conditions that prevailed over the potato growing districts last summer, good stock will be in great demand and hard to obtain the coming season.

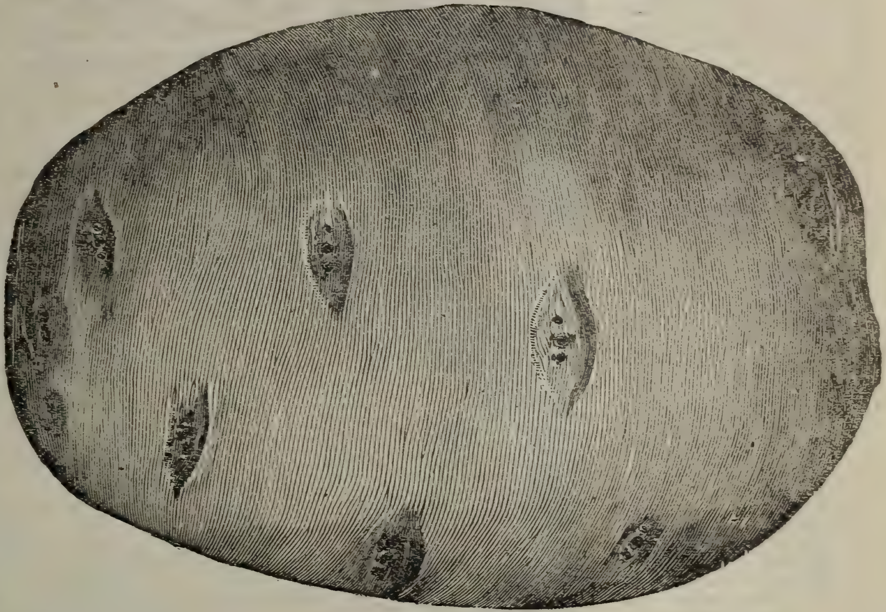
Our prices are based on values existing at date of going to press, Jan. 1st. We are often able, however, to make material reductions during the winter and spring months. Write us for Special Prices in large quantities. State varieties and number of bushels wanted.

CARMAN No. 3

The Best Main Crop Potato

The fame of this potato abroad in the land, and it is unquestionably the very best main crop potato on the market. All the Carman seedlings (originated by Mr. Elbert S. Carman, late editor of the Rural New Yorker) have proven popular; but the Carman No. 3 is already rivaling in popularity the Burbank, and is undoubtedly a much better potato. Without any exception whatever it is the **GREATEST YIELDING POTATO** ever introduced, and it may be fairly claimed that it does not yield any small tubers at all. The tubers are borne very close to the plant, a single turn of the fork turning out every potato. It is of large size and of the shapeliest form. Eyes are few and shallow. It is a perfect keeper and is not surpassed as a table variety. Skin and flesh of extreme whiteness. It has no hollow hearts or any dark parts. We recommend this potato to our customers as being unqualifiedly **THE BEST** of all late sorts.

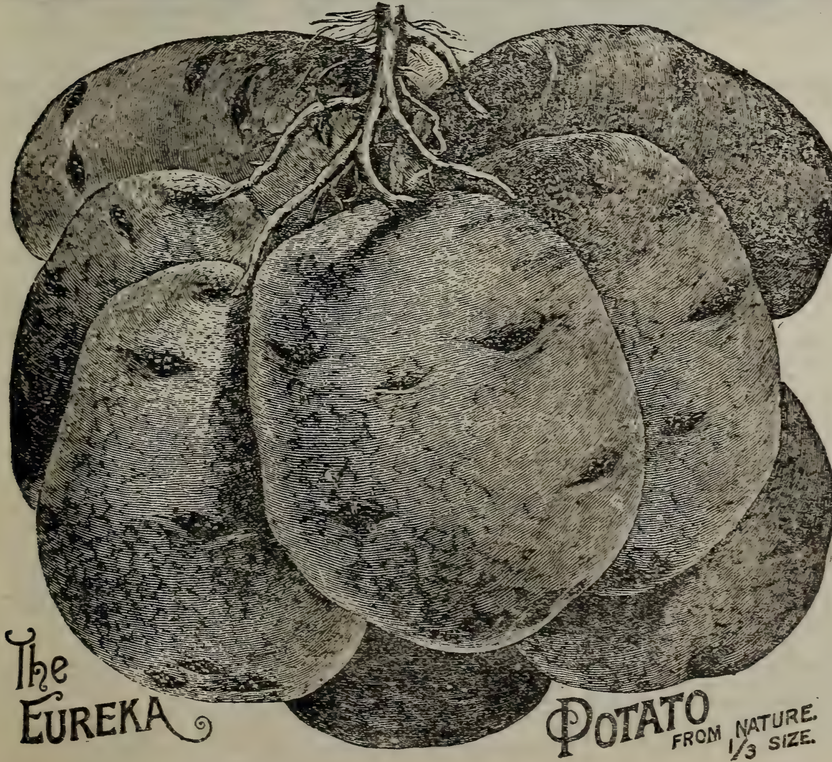
PRICE: By freight, per peck, 50c; ½ bu., 90c; 1 bu., $1.75; 5 bu. and over, $1.65.



CARMAN No. 3 POTATO.

RURAL NEW YORKER No. 2. One of the largest yielding varieties in existence. Large and unusually smooth, with few and shallow eyes, skin white as is also the flesh, which is of superior quality. Medium late and the best drouth resister. There is no other potato of more handsome appearance than the Rural New Yorker. Although it is a large yielder, it grows but few and small vines. It is very hardy and will stand the heaviest manuring without getting scabby or spotted. For this reason it is one of the most desirable varieties for farmers and potato growers near large cities to grow for main crop for market. Under ordinary circumstances they will yield from three hundred to four hundred bushels per acre, and by heavy manuring this yield can almost be doubled.

PRICE: Peck, 50c; ½ bu., 90c; 1 bu., $1.75; 5 bu. and over, $1.65.



"EUREKA"

Extra Early

The vines resist drouth to a remarkable extent and the crop is matured before the hot, dry summer sets in. Planted with the Bovee the **Eureka** matured ten days earlier and the vines were entirely dried up while those of Bovee made a second growth. It is an excellent keeper for so early a potato. We have eaten tubers which were in good condition the spring following. The firm white flesh is of good flavor when cooked, the tubers are quite broad and of a shortened oblong form, thick through, with few eyes. The skin is smooth and of a snowy whiteness.

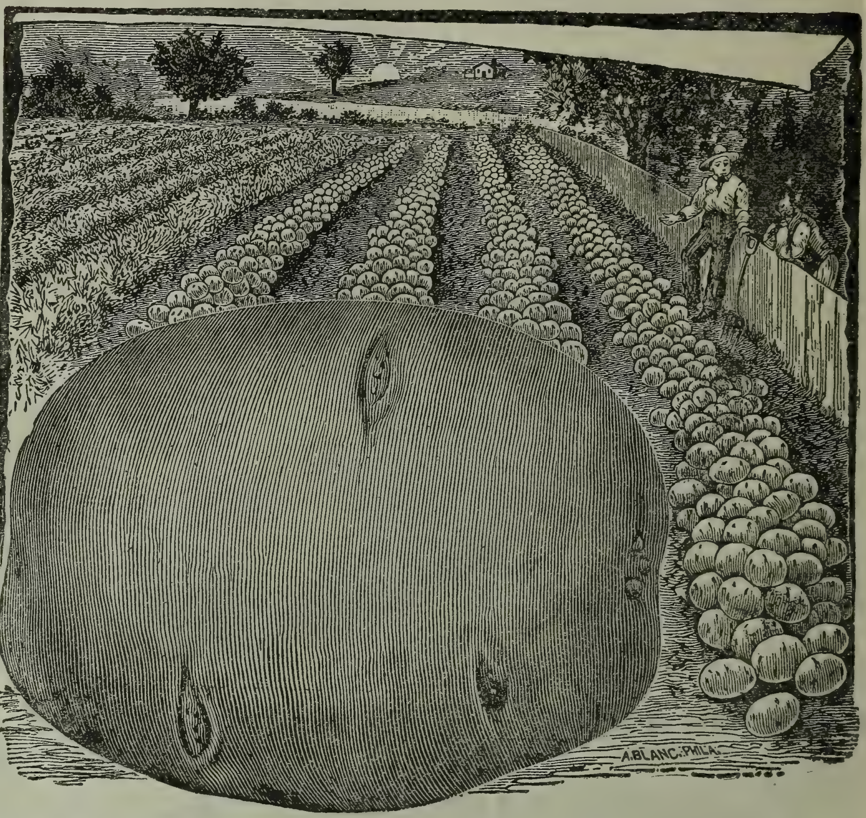
PRICE: Per lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c, postpaid. By express or freight: Per peck, 75c; per bu., $2.25; 5 bu. or over, $2.00 per bu.

EARLY OHIO POTATOES OUR SPECIALTY

ALWAYS RELIABLE

This grand old reliable potato is too well known to require any lengthy description. Almost every farmer and potato grower has given it a trial, and where true genuine stock was secured it has always given the best of satisfaction. No matter how many new early varieties are introduced the Early Ohio holds its place at the head of all other early sorts. We have more calls for it than any other variety. Carloads of this standard early variety are shipped every year to Southern States for seed purposes and the product thereof is shipped back again to our largest potato markets. The Southern potato grower realizes by planting our extreme Northern grown Early Ohio he will have his crop ready at least two weeks earlier than if planted from home grown seed. Our North Dakota grown Early Ohio are vigorous and healthy, will naturally produce the largest crops and mature fully ten days to two weeks earlier than such as are bought up by seed dealers in large cities, where they are picked up in the open markets, and as long as they have a reddish color and an oblong or oval form, call them "Early Ohio." Our stock of these potatoes is extremely fine this season, and is absolutely pure in variety.

PRICE: By freight or express, purchaser's expense: I peck, 50c; ½ bu., 90c; I bu., $1.75; 5 bu. or over, $1.65 per bu.


A.BLANC-PHILA.

OUR POTATOES ARE GROWN IN THE FAR NORTH. Our stock is grown exclusively in the Red River Valley, North Dakota. "Red River" stock always commands a premium over potatoes produced elsewhere. No seed potatoes can be compared with those produced in the North, either for vigor and freedom from disease, or for producing and long keeping qualities.

There is profit as well as satisfaction in planting our seed, for, not only is it pure, but the additional yield to be secured from a change of seed ought every time to fully pay for the seed itself, so that the investment itself is really nothing.

EARLY ROSE. This variety has been a great favorite for many years and many growers still claim that it has never been excelled in quality and productiveness. Potatoes are long in shape, good size and light pink in color at the bud end. They cook mealy and are of the finest flavor. Our stock is as fine as can be obtained.

PRICE: ¼ bu., 50c; bu., $1.75; 5 bu., @ $1.65.

PAT'S CHOICE was first introduced in 1900, since which time no other late variety has gained such wonderful fame. **The Greatest of All Late Potatoes. It OUTYIELDS ANY OTHER LATE POTATO, IS OF THE FINEST QUALITY AND FLAVOR.** There is nothing like it. Long, handsome and very smooth. Skin is a beautiful pink color, always dry and mealy, whether baked or boiled. It is medium late in season, but an enormous yielder. If you want the best late potato that is grown; the one that is on top for quality, on top for smoothness and handsome appearance and on top for yield. Choose Pat's Choice, and you will make no mistake. **PRICE: Postpaid, I lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: I peck, 50c; ½ bu., 90c; I bu., $1.75; 5 bu. and over, $1.65 per bu.**

BANNER POTATO. Introduced in 1899. The Banner is the finest main crop white potato on the market, no variety ever introduced has made as good a record in so short a time with all classes of growers on all kinds of soil. None surpass it in uniform handsome appearance. Its shape is a little oblong and slightly flattened, cooking through easily. The eyes are very shallow. The size is large and desirable, very few under market size. Always smooth and regular in form; strong and vigorous from the very sprout. The flesh is very white, and whether boiled or baked has the same fine table qualities—always dry and floury. Season, medium late. Choice sorted Northern grown stock. **PRICE: Peck, 50c; ½ bu., 90c; I bu., $1.75; 5 bu. or over, $1.65 per bu.**

ARTICHOKE ROOTS

The New Large Jerusalem Variety, producing from 400 to 1,000 bu. per acre. An excellent food for cattle, sheep and horses. Fed to milch cows, they are for the production of milk equal if not superior to bran. But their greatest value is **food for hogs.** Even the labor of feeding is avoided, as the hogs will help themselves if allowed to do so. We consider them the cheapest and healthiest hog food possible to raise, and find that where brood sows have free access to Artichokes, they and their pigs invariably do well. There is no better food to build up large healthy frames, with plenty of bone and muscle. Hogs will not only grow, but fatten on them.

On good land, with the same culture as corn, **Artichokes** will produce from 400 to 1,000 bus. per acre. A. C. Williams, of Iowa, a very prominent breeder of Poland Chinas, says: **"Forty head of hogs and pigs** may be kept **without other food** on an acre of **Artichokes** from the time frost is out of the ground until they grow again, and from October 1st until the ground freezes again. They produce more hog food per acre than any other crop I am acquainted with, and the hogs will harvest the crop themselves. **Artichokes** also produce an immense quantity of tops, of which cattle, horses and mules are very fond, and which make excellent food when properly cured. A chemical analysis of roots shows them to be **superior** to carrots, parsnips, mangles, sugar beets and turnips, both as flesh and fat formers."

Planting, Culture, Prices, Etc.—Artichokes need planting but once and little or no culture after the first year. Cut as potatoes, only smaller; plant in rows 3½ feet apart. Plow deep, plant shallow, say two inches; the second year, break up the ground as for corn; will come up thick all over the surface. Run through each way with a cultivator when a few inches high. **PRICE: I lb., 30c; 4 lbs., $1.00, by mail postpaid. By freight or express: I bu., $2.60; 5 bu., $2.50 per bu.**

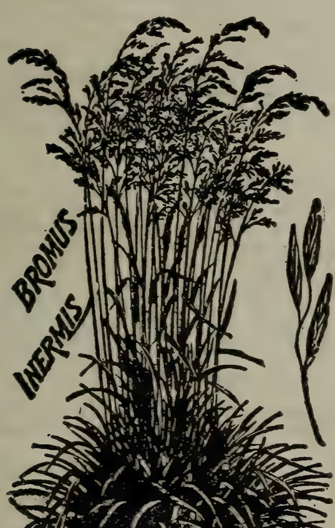
Ratekin's Grass and Clover Seeds

READ CAREFULLY

Prices on Grass, Clover, Alfalfa, Millet and Cane Seed (''Sorghum'') are so fluctuating in value that it is impossible to accurately foretell or gauge future prices and values. Therefore it would be well to write for latest quotations. But to customers at a distance, who cannot lose the time required to do this, will say, if prices are lower they will get the full value of money sent. If higher, we will ship all the money sent will pay for. Prices named are the ruling prices at time this Catalog goes to press.

We call especial attention to the above paragraph by reason of the many perplexities we have encountered in our long experience handling grass and clover seeds. Many times our catalog prices and quotations have been entirely out of line; either above or below current prices a month or two after our catalog had gone to press, but our customers can always rest assured that our prices will be in line with any other reliable Seed House of the country, quality and grade of seeds considered.

We are here in the famous **"BLUE GRASS DISTRICT"** of Iowa, where there is a large surplus supply of all the best grasses and clovers grown, and we are always in position to obtain the most choice seed, the very best there is to offer. In fact, we possess many advantages over the City Seed Houses, as we are so situated that we can always have choice of the best that is grown, while the lower grades are shipped away to other seed markets. For these reasons we can always sell a better grade of seeds and sell them at lower prices than other seed houses not so situated. Why? Because they buy of the farmer through buyers and of course they obtain a profit. They ship to Chicago, Toledo, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Kansas City, or some other center, paying freight. Then the big seed merchants get a good profit for handling, storing, etc., and then sell to country dealers—for them to retail to farmers, and they, too, receive a profit after paying the freight, so the farmers who are the consumers, have to pay commissions to all these persons, as well as all the freight charges that have followed it during this process. In buying from us it is from farmer to farmer, from producer to consumer; you pay only one profit and one freight bill and we handle grass seeds on a very close margin. Do you see the point? By reason of the advantages named we have for many years handled grasses and clovers very extensively and have made this branch of our business one of our specialties. **WE HANDLE BUT ONE GRADE OF GRASSES AND CLOVERS. THAT IS THE BEST GRADE AND QUALITY THAT CAN BE GROWN.** In addition to the numerous advantages we have related, we have the best machinery equipment for cleaning and grading all kinds of grass and clover seeds that can be found in any seed house in the world. Remember, in getting prices do not compare them with seeds of your neighbor or seed left by some farmer at a dealer's to sell or in exchange for goods; seed which have never been recleaned and which come directly from the threshing machine. We have had instances come under our observation where "good clover seed" would waste one-half in cleaning. One who has not seen our cleaning equipment or seen us cleaning grass seed has no idea of the obnoxious weed seed and trash, dirt and inferior light seed that are in timothy and clover; in fact nearly all grass seeds.



Bromus Inermis

Of all the grasses that grow or have ever been introduced into this country **BROMUS INERMIS** is the greatest. None has ever proven so valuable and of such great importance. It is a hardy perennial, withstanding the extremes of heat and drouth and of cold better than any other cultivated grass. It has been fully proven that it will not only succeed and grow under about any conditions, but will do well where timothy, clover, orchard grass or alfalfa will wither and die. It will also make the most astonishing yields under such unfavorable conditions. It is a native of Europe and Asia, ranging from France eastward into Siberia. It is thoroughly permanent and grows with wonderful rapidity, producing heavy crops and luxuriant pastures. Its value to farmers of dry regions cannot be overestimated. All kinds of stock eat it with a relish, and chemical analysis made show it rich in flesh producing ingredients, much more so than timothy. It is very hardy and starts very early in the spring and grows later than any other grass in the fall. There is no grass that will withstand the extreme changes in temperature that **BROMUS INERMIS** will without injury. Grows 18 to 36 inches in height and can be cut two or three times per year. Should be sown early in the spring, using 20 to 25 lbs. seed per acre if sown alone, or if with alfalfa, use 12 lbs., with 8 lbs. alfafa. Our stock of **Bromus Inermis** is new crop grown and has been very carefully handled and can be depended upon to grow vigorously and with good results.

PRICE: Postpaid, 1 lb., 25c. By freight—purchaser's expense: 10 lbs. or more, 15c; 100 lbs., 12c. Bags free.

Defies Drouth, Resists Frost. Best Grass of the Age.

BROMUS INERMIS. Also known as "Austrian Brome Grass," "Hungarian Brome Grass," and "Awnless Brome Grass." Of all the grasses ever introduced none of them have proven so valuable and of such great importance as Bromus Inermis. It is a hardy perennial, withstanding the extremes of heat, drouth and cold better than any of our cultivated grasses. It has been fully proven that it will not only succeed and grow under conditions that prove fatal to timothy, clover, orchard grass or alfalfa, but it will also make the most astonishing yields under such unfavorable circumstances.

The experiment stations of Colorado, Minnesota, Manitoba, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the different grass stations of the Agricultural Department, Washington, D. C., have conducted extensive experiments, and all speak of it in the highest terms.

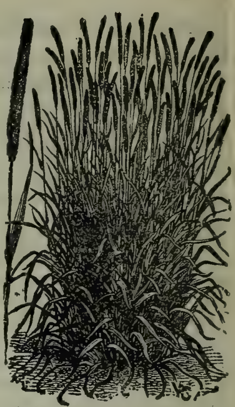
Prof. Thos. Shaw, who is highest authority, says: "This grass cannot be obtained too soon by the farmers of the arid regions. It is very hardy, endures very low temperature, and possesses great power to grow in dry climates. It is well adapted for hay and pasture. The grass comes up quickly in the spring, makes rapid, strong growth, and after it has been cut for hay, makes abundant pasturage.

W. J. Spillman, Professor of Agriculture, Washington Agricultural Station, says: "We have had five years' experience with **Bromus Inermis**. We find this grass to be well adapted to the wheat soil in this section of the country. When sown in early spring it makes considerable pasturage in the fall and a large yield of hay the second season, provided it is not pastured too closely the first season."

The editors of the following agricultural papers comment very favorably upon **Bromus Inermis:** Orange Judd Farmer, Chicago, Ill.; Prairie Farmer, Chicago, Ill.; Northwestern Farmer, St. Paul, Minn.; Dakota Farmer, Aberdeen, S. D.; Nebraska Farmer, Omaha, Neb.; Kansas Farmer, Topeka, Kan.; Homestead, Des Moines, Ia.; Wallace's Farmer, Des Moines, Ia.; Breeders' Gazette, Chicago, Ill.; and many others. Could there be any better proof of its value than this?

TIMOTHY

TIMOTHY is so well known that it needs hardly any description. There is scarcely a variety of natural or tame grass that is more generally cultivated than this. It is suited to moist, rich land where it grows to perfection and yields under favorable circumstances large crops of hay. If cut in season, which is at flowering time, it makes a most splendid nutritious hay, while for pasture it cannot be recommended, as almost every farmer knows; its growth is not thrifty enough and close pasturing is very injurious to it. When sown with red clover it makes a splendid mixture, and where it is about half and half, the timothy yields full as much as if alone, and you have the clover crop extra. One feeds off the soil and the other the air; the clover greatly enriching the land. For this reason we have added timothy to most all our clover mixtures, where circumstances will allow.



We would like to call the attention of our brother farmers here to the difference between timothy seed grown here in the most prosperous farming country in the United States, on good, rich bottom lands, free from all kinds of obnoxious weeds, and timothy handled by dealers in larger cities, sold through commission houses mostly, grown by everybody and anyone, on neglected farms, for the purpose, mainly, to subdue all kinds of foul weeds. Now, for a good and prosperous farmer it is too risky to buy such seeds, as there is more danger to get your farm infested with obnoxious weeds by sowing an inferior grade of timothy seed than with anything else, except clover, with which the risk is just as great.

PRICE: 1 lb., 25c, postpaid. Prices are so changeable and fluctuating, we would request that you write for same, and may depend upon the very lowest quotations we can make.

TIMOTHY AND ALSYKE CLOVER MIXTURE.

This is a better combination for either pasture or meadow than Medium Red clover and timothy, as they will flower and ripen at the same time. Alsyke clover can be sown to good advantage on moist soil, and will make a much finer hay than this, being free from fuzz and dust, and will not cause the horses to cough.

The seed that we offer has been raised together, and, being both of the same size, they cannot be separated so that we have to sell it at a reduced price. The seed contains about a third Alsyke clover and the balance timothy, or is as near in that proportion as we can tell, which is just the proper proportion for sowing. It should be sown at the rate of 8-10 lbs. per acre. **Ask for prices.**

RED TOP.

A very hardy native perennial grass, succeeding best on moist land. It accommodates itself to a variety of soils, however, even to quite dry situations, and stands hot climate admirably. It is, perhaps, the most permanent grass we have. It remains green for the greater part of the year, and its long trailing stems form a very close matting turf, that is not affected by trampling. Sown largely in marshy land and sloughs in the West. In the East it is one of their principal sorts, but is not so highly valued here. Fancy cleaned seed.

PRICE: Per lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c, postpaid. By freight: Per bu. (14 lbs.). Write for prices.

MEADOW FESCUE.

Festuca pratenis. We regard this as one of the most valuable grasses for several reasons. Chief among them is that it adapts itself to different conditions of soil and climate and does well all over the United States and Canada, and is also highly valued and largely cultivated throughout Europe. It gives a good amount of early and late feed of good quality, and yields heavily—from 2 to 4 tons of hay per acre, which is of fine quality and very nutritious. As a pasture grass it is particularly valuable, as it is a most persistent grower, and one of the earliest in spring and the latest in the fall. It never freezes out or winter-kills, and is not affected by drouth. It grows well on wet or dry bottoms, hillsides and tops, gravelly and loamy lands and clays, and having many fibrous roots running down 8 to 15 inches, resists the drouht.

PRICE: 1 lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c, postpaid. By freight: Per bu. (14 lbs.), Ask for prices.

BROMUS ERECTUS OR MEADOW BROME GRASS.

This is a grass which resembles Bromus Inermis in character, but is better suited for poor, light soils and hillsides, where it resists any amount of burning heat, while frost does not affect it. For such places it will prove a blessing, and it will be of inestimable value to countries where the clovers or other grasses do not thrive very well. It should especially be sown by ranchmen and in range countries, as its introduction into those states means millions of money added to their wealth. Vilmorin, the noted agriculturist of France, says that 20 years ago he sowed this grass on lands that have never been manured and the grass still stands extremely well. **Bromus Erectus** grows well on land so poor that other grasses cannot exist, is thoroughly permanent and remains for an indefinite period, affording large yields of hay, which on good land are as high as 4½ tons per acre, and furnishes excellent pasturage also. The seed is sown the same way as Bromus Inermis, at a rate of 18 to 20 pounds per acre.

PRICE: 1lb., 20c; 1 lb., postpaid, 28c. 1 bu. (14 lbs.), ; 100 lbs., $15.00. Ask for prices.

JOHNSON GRASS.

As a meadow or hay grass this variety is highly esteemed in the South, where during the hottest and driest seasons it can be relied upon to yield heavily. The aggressiveness of this grass has caused it to be considered a veritable curse by some farmers by spreading into cultivated fields, but it is highly esteemed by those who understand it. Where it is desired to keep it within bounds the seed should never be allowed to ripen, as it spreads from the seeds disseminated through hay much more than is generally supposed. Besides, when fully ripe, the feeding value is little better than corn stalks, but cut before the seed tops emerge from the sheaths its value, as shown by chemical analysis, is better than timothy hay. When cut at time recommended the embryo seeds are unpollenized and imperfect, and are incapable of sprouting, so there is no possibility of introducing this grass where it is not wanted by using such hay. We only advise the sowing of Johnson Grass where it is desired to remain as permanent meadow. Should be sown August to October, or in spring, at the rate of one bushel per acre.

PRICE: 1 lb., 25c postpaid. 10 lbs., per lb.; 100 lbs., per lb. Bags free. Ask for prices.

ENGLISH RYE GRASS.

Perennial Rye. Lolium perenne. This has become well known in this country, and is very largely sown, and has proven itself very valuable. It seems to be especially adapted for pastures, will endure close cropping, and is of strong and quick successive aftergrowth. **English Rye Grass** produces an abundance of foliage, which remains bright and green throughout the season, and for this reason is also much used for lawn grass mixtures. It is also well adapted for permanent meadows, and yields large quantities of very nutritious hay, which is well liked by all kinds of stock. This grass grows well on almost any soil, but prefers medium rich or moist land, such as will produce a good crop of corn, and gives the heaviest yields on such land. It grows 2 to 3½ feet high; when sown by itself about 20 to 22 lbs. of seed per acre is sufficient.

PRICE: Superior Grade, Lb., ; bu. (14 lbs.), ; 100 lbs., . Pound by mail, postpaid, 25c. Ask for prices and name quantity wanted.

TALL MEADOW OAT GRASS.

For either hay or a permanent pasture a most valuable grass, which can be successfully grown in all parts of the country. It is considered a desirable seed for all grass mixtures. It starts very early in the spring and is a very valuable pasture grass on this account. Succeeds best in deep, rich sandy soils, and even on clay and heavy, dry soil it does well. Grows tall and therefore desirable for meadow. Does not winter-kill. Seldom sown alone, but should be included in all mixtures.

Price: Per lb., 35c; 3 lbs., $1.00, postpaid. By freight: Bu. (14 lbs.), Ask for prices.

Kentucky Blue Grass

KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS. Very valuable and exceedingly popular in many sections of the country as a pasture grass. It is productive and unusually early in spring, furnishing delicious food for all kinds of stock. It is not easily affected by frost or drouth; is suited to a great variety of soils, succeeding best on a moist, rich meadow. For permanent pastures it is particularly valuable, being of dwarf growth, therefore not so well suited for meadows. Unexcelled for lawns. Our seed is all new crop, best grade, "fancy cleaned." Sow 20 lbs. per acre for pasture, or 50 to 75 lbs. for lawns.

PRICE: Per lb., 35c; 3 lbs., $1.00, postpaid; 1 bu. (14 lbs.): Write for prices.

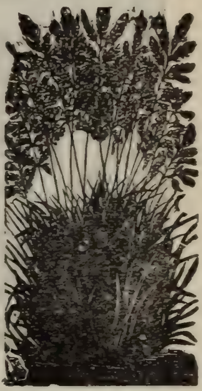
ORCHARD GRASS. **Or Thumb Grass.** A valuable grass for pasture or hay land, and on account of its earliness **very valuable for permanent pastures.** It furnishes the first green bite in the spring and the last in the fall, and is quick to recover from close cropping, and even thrives better the more it is cropped. It is well suited to shady places, such as orchards and groves. Sow 20 lbs. per acre.

PRICE: Per lb., 35c; 3 lbs., $1.00, postpaid. By freight: Per bu. (14 lbs.): Write for prices.

MEADOW FOXTAIL. A fine grass which is especially well adapted for permanent pastures. It is one of the very first to start growth in the spring and is of remarkably quick and strong aftergrowth, either when closely cropped or after mowing. It is especially adapted for sowing in low, wet places, in marshes, or sloughs, and an occasional overflow of several days will not harm it. Many are under the impression that this valuable grass is the same as a wild species commonly known as Fox Tail or Squirrel Tail, and are afraid to sow it. If they will read this description carefully they will find it is not similar to this wild pest grass.

PRICE: 1 lb., postpaid, 25c; 1 bu. (14 lbs.): Write for prices.

NOTE.—The seed is very light, one ounce containing 76,000 kernels.



KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS.

ITALIAN RYE GRASS. An annual variety of above, which can be depended on to give a large crop the first year. Valuable for sowing with crimson clover as a catch crop on red clover fields where clover has been winter-killed. Does well on any good clover land. Sow 20 lbs. per acre.

PRICE: Per lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 80c, postpaid. By freight: Per bu. (14 lbs.): Write for prices.

BERMUDA GRASS. This is a grass that is eminently adapted for the Southern States, as it withstands drouth and the scorching days of the sun better than any other variety. In all tropical countries this grass is highly esteemed for its drouth resisting qualities, and also for the peculiar habit of its growth; the wiry roots of the grass in running over the surface of the ground form a strong, fibrous matting. This has caused it to be sown largely for the purpose of binding banks of creeks and dams, etc. For lawns it is also highly prized, as while all other grasses are burned up during the hot season, **Bermuda Grass** will remain green, and if regularly mown it will make quite a velvety carpet. The only drawback is that in winter it looks a little brown, but in the Southern States an all-the-year-round green lawn can be maintained by sowing English Rye Grass every fall at the rate of 50 lbs. per acre, and harrowing, or raking into the **Bermuda Grass** sod. **Bermuda Grass** seed should be sown in the spring, as it will not germinate until warm weather comes. As a grass for hay or pasture, it matures and gives its first cutting ordinarily in June. Sow 8 lbs., per acre.

PRICE: Per lb., $1.00; 5 lbs., 90c per lb., postage prepaid; 100 lbs., per lb. Ask for prices.

Beautify the Home Place

"Leave the World More Beautiful Than You Found It"

Ratekin's Lawn Grass Seed

EVERGREEN MIXED LAWN GRASS SEED. This is a mixture of the best varieties of grass seeds suited for growing together in the Central and Northern States, and will make a **beautiful,** soft, velvety lawn as handsome green as an emerald and is formed of grasses which keep green from early spring all through the hot, dry summer **weather,** until late in the fall. It comes up quickly (in about two weeks after seed is sown) and after once up it soon spreads to cover the ground and is ready for the lawn mower in six to eight weeks. It is permanent, maintaining its beauty for a lifetime, although it is a good plan to give any lawn a top seeding once every two or three years. This mixture is made by ourselves from new crop, recleaned pure seeds of the best varieties, well suited for even and permanent growth, as good as money can buy. It cannot be excelled for producing a rich, velvety lawn of beautiful dark green color.

PRICE: Per qt. (will sow 300 square feet), 40c; 4 qts., $1.50, postpaid. By freight: Per bu. (15 lbs.), $4.00; 50 lbs., $15.00; 100 lbs., $30.00. You can buy dirt, weed seed and trash cheaper, but it's money, time and anxiety thrown away. Ask for quantity prices.

RATEKIN'S TERRACE LAWN MIXTURE. It is sometimes difficult to get a good sod on sloping ground, terraces, side hills or embankments. This is a mixture of such grasses as have strong spreading roots, making a close turf, which heavy rains cannot easily wash out.

PRICE: Quart, 40c; 3 qts., $1.10, postpaid. By freight: Per bu. (15 lbs.), ask for prices.

RATEKIN'S SHADY PLACE LAWN MIXTURE. This mixture is a combination of fine dwarf growing, evergreen varieties of grass, which grow naturally in the woods or in shaded spots. They are mixed in proper proportions to make a fine lawn under shade trees. Sow seed thickly; one quart to 150 square feet.

PRICE: Quart, 40c; 3 qts., $1.10, postpaid. By freight: Bu. (15 lbs.), ask for prices.

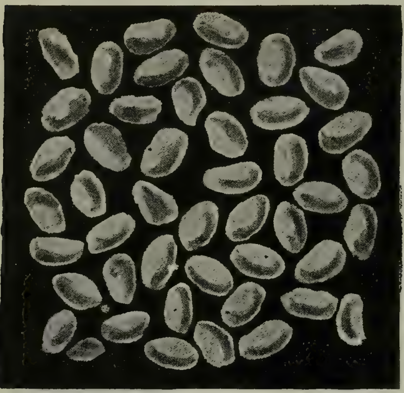
WHITE DUTCH CLOVER. Used largely for lawns. It is the most hardy variety of clover, is of a creeping habit, desirable for sowing on terraces or sloping grounds. Seed is very small and it requires only 7 lbs to sow an acre. **PRICE: For our choice quality, per lb., 40c; 3 lbs., $1.10, postpaid. By freight: Peck: Write for prices.**

A nice velvety lawn adds more to the beauty of a place than any other adornment, and even the humblest home may be made attractive with such surroundings, while without a good lawn even the finest flowering plants and elegantly arranged beds seem insignificant. How important it is then to plant for the best lawn obtainable. Do not spend money in sodding a lawn, for it is expnsive and seldom satisfactory. When sod is cut from the roadside or some out of the way pasture, it is poor in quality and full of weeds, and when unevenly laid produces a rough surface which disfigures the **lawn.** It costs much less to sow the seed and the lawn is far better.

Who can gather wild roses sweet,
Or follow the fences for golden rod
Or tramp through the clover meadow over
And say to his neighbor, there is no God?

Write for Prices on Grasses and Clovers, Alfalfa, etc., etc.

Ratekin's Superior Clover Seeds



RATEKIN'S HIGH GRADE CLOVER SEED.

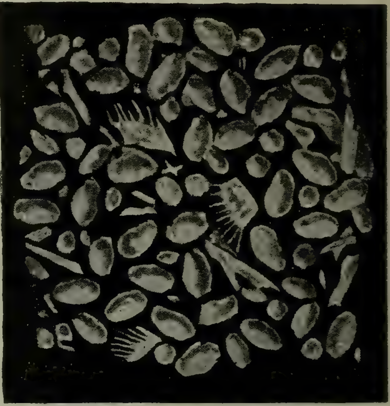


DIAGRAM SHOWING ORDINARY CLOVER SEED.

THE MICROSCOPE TELLS THE STORY

In other places in this book we have repeatedly called attention to the value and importance of purity and good strong germination of all seeds, especially grasses and clover. To better illustrate the difference between "good seed" clover, and high grade seed we have attached a microscope on to the camera, which magnifies the seed 10 times its natural size, thus enabling one with the naked eye to better see the difference, for you know the microscope will not lie.

The plate at the left shows the practical perfect degree of purity attained by us in our celebrated **HIGH GRADE SEEDS.** The plate at the right shows "good clover seed" that is ordinarily sold for recleaned seed. Without the use of the microscope the ordinary farmer or any one else for that matter, would hardly detect the difference. The man who sold the seed may mean well and be the best fellow in the world, but such seed is always dear at any price, even as a gift when you can buy our high grade seed at reasonable prices.

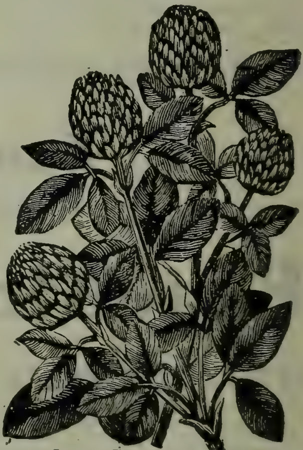
WHEN YOU BUY YOUR SEEDS FROM US YOU RUN NO RISK. IF NOT ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY ON RECEIPT AND EXAMINATION YOU MAY RETURN THEM AT OUR EXPENSE AND MONEY PAID FOR THEM WILL BE REFUNDED.

PLEASE NOTE.—Prices of Clover and Timothy are subject to fluctuations of the market. Buyers should write for firm and lowest prices before buying, which we quote by return mail, then there is sure to be no misunderstanding.

Iowa Grown Medium Red Clover

Every farmer is familiar with it, and a field of this knee-high means fat cattle, swine and sheep and plenty of money to the man who owns it. In order to keep the farm up medium red clover should be sown with all spring grain at the rate of 6 to 8 lbs. per acre, if for no other purpose than for mere fertilizing purposes. It will surely prove a double benefit, for if pasturage is scarce the cattle can be turned on, and if not required for this purpose entirely, our land requires fertilizer of some kind which barnyard manure alone cannot supply. Good clover sod turned under gives the best and biggest yield of corn, wheat and potatoes. Our **Iowa Grown Clover Seed,** the best in the world, with which we have been supplying our customers, is well known for its purity, vitality and vigorous growth, as well as its wonderful productiveness.

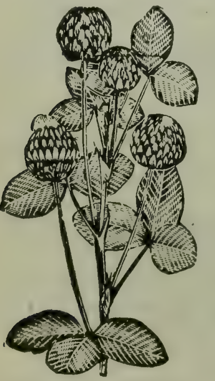
PRICE: 1 lb., postpaid, 25c. By freight or express: Write for prices.



Medium Red CLOVER.

MAMMOTH CLOVER. Pea Vine Clover or Cow Grass. This is well known for its enormous yields and for reclaiming exhausted lands. It is extremely hardy and flourishes on such soil which is too low and heavy for common red clover. On account of its being so hardy it can be sown here in Iowa and even further north in the fall, and should always be included in permanent pasture mixtures. The hay is of choice quality and is greedily eaten by all kinds of stock. As a fertilizer to plow under green it has no equal, and for this purpose 5 to 6 lbs. per acre should be sown with all small grain. Our **Mammoth Clover** is grown here, and our customers can depend upon getting the true **Mammoth Clover,** if they order from us. **PRICE: 1 lb., by mail postpaid, 30c. By freight or express, purchaser's expense: Write for prices.**

ALSIKE CLOVER. Unexcelled for hay and we cannot too strongly recommend it to our customers. Is a true perennial, producing a good crop the first year and every year thereafter, and the field really keeps improving each season. Highly valued as a permanent pasture. It is hardy even in northern Minnesota, and is the only variety which will produce a good crop and not kill out in low, wet land. It also adapts itself to high upland soils, and withstands drouth well. The hay is finer and better than any other, therefore of special value for sowing with timothy. Height 18 to 24 inches and round pink or flesh colored heads. Seed is small and requires only 8 lbs. per acre, or half that quantity if sown with timothy. **PRICE: Per lb., 30c. Write for prices.**



ALSIKE CLOVER.

CRIMSON CLOVER. This is also called Giant Incarnate, Scarlet and German Mammoth Clover. It is remarkable for its quick growth, and is the only clover that yields a full and heavy crop the first year.

SOWING.—This clover should be sown broadcast in spring with grain for fertilizing purposes at the rate of 10 to 15 lbs. per acre. When the grain is ready to cut, it will have made quite a dense growth already, as it is quite a rank grower, some stools counting as many as 120 blossoms from one seed. It grows to a height of 20 to 24 inches, roots deep, even in poor soil, from 4 to 5 feet. Here in the North it can also be sown from July 15th to the 1st of October, so as to get well started before winter sets in. It will then be fit to cut about two weeks earlier than the common red clover.

SOIL.—Any kind of soil will suit this clover. It succeeds admirably on sandy soil. On ground too light for ordinary clover this will succeed and make a good crop, likewise on the heavier soil. All situations seem to suit it, except wet land.

HAY.—We have to speak as highly for it for hay as in its other conditions. Its composition and digestibility are higher than those of red clover and it makes a superior hay. It cures very rapidly and should be handled to retain as much leaf as possible, yet the stalks are very nutritious.

GREEN MANURING.—This is one of the best uses for which **Crimson Clover** is adapted. It will produce a dense and heavy growth on land so poor that the common clover would do but little. It grows late in the fall and early in the spring. This clover, like other leguminous plants, gathers nitrogen from the air and stores it in the plant and roots, which becomes available food for succeeding crops. The nitrogen from one acre alone could not be bought for $30.00, and it is fully equal to that found in 20 tons of stable manure, and at such a small comparative cost. Our experience is, that if the whole of the crop is grazed or mown and removed, the land which produced the crop of **Crimson Clover** will be greatly improved by the action of the decomposing roots, and a succeeding crop of corn will be vastly better than a crop on adjoining soil which laid idle

PRICE: 1 lb., postpaid by mail, 30c. By freight or express: Write for prices.

IN WRITING FOR QUOTATIONS ON GRASS AND CLOVER SEEDS FEEL ASSURED ALWAYS THAT OUR PRICES WILL BE IN LINE WITH ANY OTHER RELIABLE HOUSE, QUALITY CONSIDERED.

ALFALFA

There Is No State in the Union Where Alfalfa Cannot Be Successfully Grown

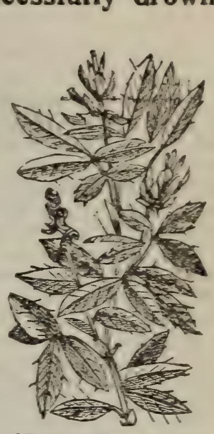
Of all the different kinds of clover, **Alfalfa** is the hardiest and most productive. During long protracted drouths it will flourish and yield abundantly when all other vegetation dies.

The taproots descent to great depths wherever the soil is loose and permeable, often averaging 10 to 12 feet. It has been recorded that **Alfalfa** sends its roots to a depth of 50 and 60 feet, and it is believed that under especially favorable circumstances they may even go deeper. It grows best in a sandy, rich loam underlaid by a loose and permeable subsoil. It should not be understood, however, that it requires, necessarily, sandy soil for growing **Alfalfa**, for this can be raised on most any kind of soil, even on stiff clay land. The prime condition for its success is that the land be naturally well drained. The subsoil should not be heavy and stiff and impervious to water, but loose enough to drain off the superfluous moisture.

To make the best Alfalfa hay it should be cut when the first flowers commence to appear, as, if cut when in full bloom, or even later, the stems might become woody and hard. When grown on the most suitable soils—namely, such as are rich and well drained, and which abound in lime, potash, phosphoric acid and magnesium—and with the stimulus of heat and moisture Alfalfa yields, with ordinary care and cultivation, from one to two tons of rich, nutritious hay every four to six weeks, and can be cut, according to location and circumstances, from three to eight times a season.

Lucerne, or Alfalfa, is easily cultivated and is sown early in the spring on well prepared soil at the rate of 15 to 20 lbs. per acre. It can be sown either by itself or with grain as nurse crop.

It will make a fair growth the first season, but this depends a great deal upon the circumstances. Some of our customers have cut their Alfalfa fields twice the same year it was sowed, cutting from one to two tons of hay in each instance.



ALFALFA or Lucerne CLOVER.

CAUTION. The discovery that Alfalfa can be grown where any other clover will succeed, and in many places where the other clovers will not succeed, has brought about a great demand for seed. This has led to the wholesale adulteration of Alfalfa with Yellow Trefoil Clover. This seed closely resembles Alfalfa in shape and color and is very low in price, consequently Alfalfa seed can be and commonly is adulterated up to 50 or 60 per cent. without its presence being detected except by those who are expert in such matters. Last year we lost a great deal of business from the fact that others were in many cases making prices in hundred pound lots for less than our seed was costing us in very large quantities. Those who have bought this mixed seed in the past will want to obtain the real Alfalfa. To such and all others who want to get what they order, we would say our Alfalfa is unmixed seed and we send our customers just the grade they order, always recommending, of course, our best.

A FEW HINTS ON ALFALFA. The presence of lime in some form, either in the soil or subsoil, seems to be essential. If it is known that there is no lime in the soil, lime should be applied as a top dressing, when the land is being plowed preparatory to sowing the seed.

GOOD DRAINAGE IS NECESSARY, for an excess of surface water soon rots out the roots.

AMERICAN GROWN ALFALFA. The great bulk of American grown seed comes from Utah, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming and Western Kansas and Nebraska, where it is grown under irrigation and does not possess that great vitality in adjusting itself to normal conditions from the seed that it does where grown under natural conditions. In connection with this, and for reasons named, we purchase all our seed direct from the growers in southern central Nebraska, direct, and know exactly what we are getting therefore you can always rely upon seed that you get from us being grown under natural conditions, and of the very best quality that can be produced.

PRICE: 1 lb., postpaid, 30c. By freight or express: 1 peck, $3.75. Write for prices.

Turkestan Alfalfa

This has recently been introduced into cultivation by our Agricultural Department. It was found growing on the high table lands of Asia, and is especially adapted to the sudden changes of temperature that prevail there—intense heat at midday and very often frost at night, even in midsummer. **Turkestan Alfalfa** resembles the ordinary cultivated Alfalfa described above, excepting that the leaves are shorter and are sparsely clothed with short hairs. Its cultivation has been quite successful in the arid regions of the West, and under conditions where Alfalfa or Lucerne fails the **Turkestan Alfalfa** will prove to be of the greatest value.

As all of this seed has to be imported, it is rather high priced yet, but all those who failed to obtain good results with the common Alfalfa should give the Turkestan at least a trial, as success is very certain in most every instance. We have imported the true **Turkestan Alfalfa** directly from Europe, which is of the best quality. There was a great demand for the **Turkestan Alfalfa** last year, and much of the common Lucerne was doped off to innocent purchasers by unscrupulous dealers. That our patrons may be able to distinguish these two kinds, we will mention here that the **Turkestan Alfalfa Seed** is not quite as elongated as the common and that its color has also a purplish hue to it.

PRICE: 1 lb., prepaid by mail, 30c; peck, $4.00; bu., write for prices.

THERE IS NO STATE IN THE UNION WHERE ALFALFA CANNOT BE SUCCESSFULLY GROWN

Ten years ago we should not have ventured to quote the above statement. We now believe it to be a true and reasonable assertion.

It is unnecessary to enter into any argument as to the value and desirability of Alfalfa. Everyone knows what it is, and there is probably not a farmer in the United States who would not like to have it growing on his farm.

See if you cannot establish it on your farm.

Nebraska Grown Alfalfa

We have received from Nebraska a large quantity of very choice seed, which we consider the best American grown seed we have ever handled. This seed is very much hardier than seed grown under irrigation. It is particularly large, bold and beautiful seed, and as it is now being produced there in large quantities, and we believe it will be but a short time before it will command the highest price of any American grown Alfalfa.

Vetch

SAND OR WINTER VETCH. (**Vicia Villosa.**) Sometimes called Hairy Vetch. This is a very valuable forage plant and is rapidly becoming more popular each year as the farmers of this country are learning more of its great value. It is very hardy, is valuable as a winter cover crop to prevent leaching, and for forage and fertilizing purposes. It is an annual, but re-sows itself and will come up year after year on the same ground. It succeeds well on nearly all soils and thrives surprisingly on poor, light land and will stand extremes of drouth, heat and cold. It improves the soil, being a great nitrogen gatherer. It belongs to the pea family, but the vines are much longer and the foliage is more abundant. It may be sown either in the spring or fall with about half a bushel of rye or oats for support. It grows rapidly and is particularly valuable in sections where Clover does not thrive. In the North it remains green all winter under the snow and it is invaluable for early pasturing or soiling. The Department of Agriculture estimates the value of an acre of this Vetch plowed under equal to commercial fertilizer at the rate of from $16 to $40 an acre. When sown in August or September it covers the ground before frost and prevents leaching of the soil during the winter and spring. When sown in April or May it can be cut in July, the second growth affording excellent pasture during the summer. The yield of green fodder is from 2 to 6 tons an acre. When raised for hay it should be left standing until some seeds have become well formed. One to one and one-half bushels of seed required to the acre.

PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; 1 lb., 20c, postpaid. By freight: 1 lb., 12c; 10 lbs., 10c per lb. Bags free.

PRICES ON GRASS, CLOVERS, ALFALFA, CANE, MILLET, VETCH and such seeds as we have asked prices on, are so fluctuating it is impossible to make firm prices and keep in line; therefore we have requested that you **WRITE FOR PRICES.**

Grass and Clover Mixtures

WHAT TO SOW

It is a well established fact that a judicious selection of several varieties of Grass and Clover Seeds will produce a much larger yield—generally again as much—per acre than can be obtained with only one or two kinds sown alone. It is, however, difficult for our patrons to select proper grasses and mix them thoroughly for their own use; and it thus comes that we are annually requested by hundreds of our friends to select and mix for them sorts adapted to their soil and climate. This, from our large experience in the culture, nature and requirements of Grasses for pasture and meadows, we can often do more satisfactorily than they. When customers wish a luxuriant growth of either meadow or pasture, it will pay them every time to buy our Grass Mixtures. In sowing a large variety you are not running the risk of not getting a good stand, like you would by sowing only one or two kinds, for in a larger variety there must be at least several kinds of grasses adapted to your soil, while if you sow only one kind it may not be adapted and consequently no result. A pasture containing a variety of grasses and clover is again as productive and earlier than if but one kind of grass is used, and can also be pastured throughout the season, as most grasses used are deep rooted and are extremely drouth resisting. In our carefully selected clover-grass mixtures several varieties are sown together, and these will cover the ground more closely and make three blades of grass grow where formerly but one grew, and will yield at least double the quantity of pasture or hay that is secured from but one or two kinds.

For pastures we want grasses to mature and bloom at different times so that stock find nourishment all the season; while for meadows the opposite is preferable—all should bloom and ripen together at the same time.

When and How to Sow Grass Seed

A great many are strongly favorable to sowing grass seed alone without a nurse crop, but we think a crop of barley, speltz or early Champion Oats can be raised if but half the usual amount of grain is sown. All these are very early to ripen, and they either of them make a splendid nurse crop and are far preferable to a weed crop—more or less of which you will have without the nurse crop. Plow the ground thoroughly in early spring. Sow grain not over half the usual amount; harrow and cross harrow them in, then sow at the rate of 20 lbs. of the mixture per acre and harrow the ground once or twice afterward, thus giving the seed a light even covering. After sowing and harrowing it would undoubtedly be well to roll the land if you have one convenient.

All our mixtures consist of the best varieties of recleaned choice seed and will give you quick and certain results if you will do your part and will lend a permanency that will pleasantly astonish, surprise and please you.

Permanent Meadow Mixtures

Will make the best quality hay every year, the mixture containing such grasses as produce a heavy growth, and mature together. We send out the No. 1 mixture when not otherwise ordered, as it is adapted to medium or average soils.

No. 1. FOR MEDIUM SOILS.—Contains Meadow Fescue, Perennial Rye Grass, Italian Rye, Orchard Grass, Tall Meadow Oat, Timothy, Red Clover and Alsike, Sweet Vernal, etc.

No. 2. FOR HIGH, DRY LAND, LIGHT OR GRAVELLY SOILS.—Contains Sheep's Fescue, Alfalfa, Hard Fescue, Perennial Rye Grass, Meadow Fescue, Timothy, Kentucky Blue Grass, Sweet Vernal, etc.

No. 3. FOR HIGH, DRY LAND, HEAVY OR CLAY SOILS.—Contains much the same as above with the addition of Orchard Grass, Crested Dog's Tail and Bromus.

No. 4. FOR MOIST AND RICH SOIL, OR LAND SUBJECT TO OVERFLOW.—Contains Water Meadow Grass, Meadow Foxtail, Perennial Rye Grass, Meadow Fescue, Red Top, Meadow Soft Grass, Alsike Clover, etc.

No. 5. FOR TOP SEEDING SWAMPS, MARSHES, ETC.—(Sow 10 lbs. per acre.) Contains much the same as above, in different proportions.

PRICE: Any of the above Permanent Meadow Mixtures, per lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c, postpaid. By freight: 20 lbs., $3.20; 50 lbs., $10.00; 100 lbs., $19.50.

Selected with a view to having a succession of grasses on constantly from earliest spring through the dry summer weather and through the fall. It is permanent and keeps improving year after year. Sow about 20 lbs. per acre.

No. 6. FOR MEDIUM SOILS.—Contains Kentucky Blue Grass, Meadow Fescue, Perennial Rye Grass, Orchard Grass, Tall Meadow Oat Grass, Hard Fescue, Alsike Clover, White Clover, Timothy, Red Clover, etc.

No. 7. FOR HIGH, DRY, GRAVELLY SOILS.—Contains Sheep's Fescue, Hard Fescue, Creeping Bent, Bromus Inermis, Crested Dog's Tail, Meadow Fescue, Timothy, Kentucky Blue Grass, White Clover, etc.

No. 8. FOR HIGH, DRY, HEAVY OR CLAY SOILS.—Contains much the same as above, mixed in different proportions with the addition of Alfalfa and Orchard Grass.

No. 9. FOR MOIST and VERY RICH SOILS.—Contains Perennial Rye Grass, Water Meadow Grass, Water Fescue, Meadow Foxtail, Orchard Grass, Meadow Soft Grass, Tall Meadow Oat Grass, Alsike, etc.

No. 10. FOR ORCHARDS, WOOD PASTURES AND SHADY PLACES.—Contains Wood Meadow Grass, Orchard Grass, Kentucky Blue Grass, English Blue Grass, Meadow Foxtail, Sweet Vernal, Red Clover, Alsike, etc.

PRICE: Any of the above Permanent Pasture Mixtures, per lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 85c, postpaid. By freight, 20 lbs., $3.20; 50 lbs., $10.00; 100 lbs., $19.50. These prices are based on clean, pure seed; not dirt and sweepings.

For Light, Sandy and Gravelly Soils

Rescue Grass.
Hard Fescue.
Sheep's Fescue.
Meadow Brome Grass.
Soft Brome Grass.
Bromus Inermis.
Red Top and White Clover.

TRIAL CLOVER GRASS MIXTURE. We have selected this Clover-Grass Mixture with a view to have those who have never sown our Clover-Grass Mixture before give it a trial this spring. It is made up of about 15 different varieties of grasses and clovers, and can be sown on almost any kind of soil where oats, corn, rye or wheat will grow, and can be used for either meadow or pasture. About 20 to 25 lbs. should be sown per acre, according to the land, sowing the last named amount (25 lbs.) on poor soil. **20 lbs., $3.25; 50 lbs., $7.00; 100 lbs., $14.00.**

No. B2. Quite often we hear from farmers that it is impossible to get a stand of tame grass started in their locality, as everything failed that was tried before. Now, with the large variety of natural grasses we have, which are adapted to the most widely different conditions of soil and climate, it is easy to obtain a stand of grass everywhere, and we would advise those who have failed before, and where the conditions of soil and climate are unusually severe, to sow the following Clover-Grass Mixture, and we are certain that the results will be satisfactory.

Bromus Erectus.
Meadow Fescue.
Bromus Inermis.
Hard Fescue.
Sheep's Fescue.
Rescue Grass.
Blue Grass and Red Top.
Alfalfa.
White Clover.

Our Specialty Selected Clover Grass = Mixtures for Hog Pastures

It is a well known fact that hogs can be raised more profitably on grass and clover than on corn only. Many farmers, especially in the corn growing sections, have paid dearly for their experience when they fed their hogs entirely on corn, for the hog cholera and similar diseases caused them terrible losses. It is an established fact, that land which will grow a crop of corn and small grain, will also produce a fine crop of grass and clover, and a good hog pasture can be provided with considerably less labor and expense than corn. If a good pasture is once established the hogs will do the rest and will not only keep healthy and strong, but will make an average gain of one pound per day quite easily. Quick results, which means a pasture covered with the most luxuriant growth of grasses and clovers, can be had in a short time from our properly selected Clover-Grass Mixtures for Hog Pastures. We have always given special attention to the selection of the various grass and clover seeds best adapted for hog pastures, and have arranged them so as to give quick results, which means a good hog pasture in about six weeks from time of sowing the seed, as well as to produce a permanent hog pasture.

C1. HOG PASTURE CLOVER-GRASS MIXTURE FOR QUICK RESULTS AND A FULL CROP THE FIRST YEAR.—When sown early in spring, the heavy and luxuriant growth of the grasses and clovers will furnish rich and succulent food throughout the summer. Crimson Clover, used in the right proportion with other grasses and clovers, we have by careful experimenting found to be best adapted, and this "A" Hog Pasture Clover-Grass Mixture will bring the best results.

PRICE: 1 lb., 25c, postpaid. Express or freight: 12 lbs. (for one acre), $1.50; 50 lbs., $6.50; 100 lbs., $12.50. Sow 12 lbs. per acre.

C2. CLOVER-GRASS MIXTURE FOR A PERMANENT HOG PASTURE. Also valuable for the full use of it the first year. The following varieties we have found giving the most satisfactory results for this purpose, and they can be sown on good, rich, low ground, or on ordinary corn land: Crimson Clover, Mammoth Clover, Alsike Clover, White Clover, Italian Rye Grass, English Rye Grass, Orchard Grass, Creeping Bent Grass and Timothy. Sow 15 lbs. per acre.

PRICE: 1 lb., 25c, postpaid; 15 lbs. (for one acre), $1.75.

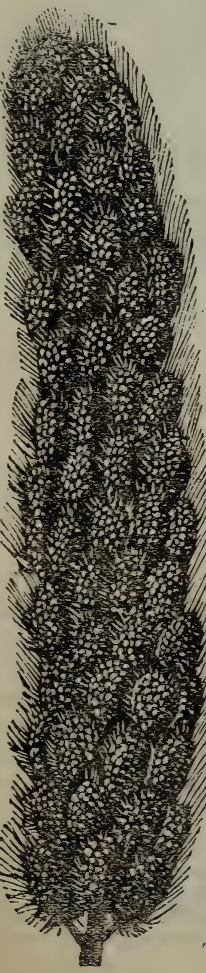
Extra Grass and Clover Mixtures for Meadows

D1. GRASS MIXTURE. We have selected only the earliest, hardiest, best and quickest growing varieties for this Clover-Grass Mixture. Dairy farmers want to cut a crop of hay very early and have pasture for the rest of the season, or intend to make two crops of hay the same summer; and this especially selected Clover-Grass Mixture is admirably suited for this purpose. It is adapted for good or medium soils which will produce a good crop of corn or wheat, and can be sown anywhere in any part of the country.

Orchard Grass.
Tall Meadow Oat.
English Rye Grass.
Italian Rye Grass.
20 lbs.—Meadow Foxtail.
20 lbs.—Meadow Fescue.
14 lbs.—Red Clover.
10 lbs.—Aliske Clover and Timothy.

This is **Our Special Alfalfa or Lucerne Clover-Grass Mixture**, and consists mainly of Alfalfa, Bromus Inermis and such varieties of grasses as will not only stand drouth, but will also flourish on poor soils and give large yields in the driest summers, after once being established. The quantity required per acre is 15 lbs.

PRICE: 1 lb., 25c, postpaid; 15 lbs., $2.00; 50 lbs., $6.50; 100 lbs., $12.50.



D2. CRIMSON CLOVER-GRASS MIXTURE, or SPECIAL RENOVATING CLOVER-GRASS MIXTURE, or QUICK RETURN MIXTURE. We selected and made this up for rapid growth with a view to use for either alternate husbandry or as a catch crop. When sown in early spring, March or April, it will give a full crop of hay in July, and pasture for the rest of the year. It can also be sown in fields where the clover or grass has mostly been winter-killed, or otherwise injured, and where there are bare spots in the spring, when it will be ready to cut with the other grass or clover, and a full crop from such field with bare spots can thereby be secured.

Crimson Clover.
Italian Rye Grass.
English Rye Grass.
20 lbs.—Tall Meadow Oat.
14 lbs.—Timothy and Red Clover.

When used for sowing in fields where there is some grass or clover already, the quantity to be sown per acre must be according to the stand of grass or clover. Usually five to ten pounds per acre are sufficient.

MILLET

Nothing pays better for a stock raiser and dairy farmer than a few acres of Millet of some kind, for it is of the greatest feeding value and milk producing quality, and yields at least again as much of the most delicious hay per acre as Timothy and Clover. It should be sown regularly every year, and not merely as a catch crop. When spring is so unfavorable that other crops fail to grow, or when the season is so late and wet that other crops will not mature any more, then there is always the greatest demand for Millet. Write for prices.

GERMAN OR GOLDEN MILLET.

This grows very rank and is one of the best varieties for hay or fodder. On good, rich soil it will make a growth of 4 to 5 feet high, and although the hay may seem coarse, yet it is so tender that if cut at the right stage, which is when in full bloom, even the hogs will eat the cured hay quite greedily. A yield of 5 tons of hay per acre is nothing unusual. Sow 3 pecks per acre. **Write for prices.** 48 lbs. bu.

COMMON MILLET.

This does best on dry, light, rich soil and grows 2½ to 4 feet high, with a fine bulk of stalks and leaves, and is excellent for forage. About 3 pecks of seed is sown per acre. **Write for prices.** Bu. 48 lbs.

NEW SIBERIAN MILLET.

A good Millet, introduced several years ago from Russia, and is an entirely distinct variety, the seed being of an almost orange color, but the heads are of about the same form as the Common Millet. It stools quite heavily and the joints being so close together the plants are just covered with blades. This is a heavy yielder, and the hay is of very fine quality. It yields from 50 to 70 bushels of seed per acre. Being an introduction from the extreme north it is very hardy, and will prosper under conditions where other varieties fail. Bu. 48 lbs.

PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; 1 lb., 25c; postpaid by mail. Not prepaid: Write for prices.

Japanese Barnyard Millet

(BILLION DOLLAR GRASS.)

Japanese Barnyard Millet is also offered by a certain seed dealer in the West as the "Billion Dollar Grass." This variety of Millet was first grown here in this country by Professor Brooks, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, who brought it from Japan. It has proven to be very valuable and is highly recommended for the following reasons: It will grow 6 to 8 feet in height and will yield 15 to 25 tons per acre. It may be siloed, fed green or cured into hay, and its feeding quality is always superior to fodder corn. It can best be sown at any time from the middle of May to the end of July, either broadcast at the rate of 12½ lbs. per acre, or in drills, using 8 lbs. of seed per acre. The seed so far has been scarce and high priced, but we can offer it at a lower price than usual. 30 lbs. per bu.

PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; 1 lb., 30c; 4 lbs., 90c, postpaid by mail. Not prepaid: 1 lb., 20c; 15 lbs., $1.00. Write for prices.

Write us for lowest and best prices on Millet, Cane, Clover, Alfalfa and Grass Seeds of all kinds.

RATEKINS'RELIABLE
SEEDS
CHEAP.
NONE BETTER-NONE CHEAPER-ALL TESTED

OUR POLICY

THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE RATEKIN SEED HOUSE

FIRST: "A square deal" and strictly honest treatment to every customer.

SECOND: To grow every variety of seeds we sell direct to you the best and purest new seeds possible to be grown.

THIRD: To give you an absolute guarantee that if you are not pleased in every respect with seeds when received by you they can be returned at our expense and money paid for them will be refunded.

FOURTH: That is our policy. We carry it out by giving every customer absolutely fair and honest treatment, and by continuing to sell in the future as we have in the past seeds of purity and strong germination; seeds that will grow and seeds that will give you the best possible results.

We make you money and save you money when you buy your seeds from us. First, you buy direct from first hands, and our seeds come direct from grower to planter. They are new crop grown—all thoroughly tested before sending out and you can always depend upon them growing and producing good results.

Seed buying comes but once a year for most homes and gardens, and on the seeds depend the crop. For this reason the uppermost questions should be where can I get the best, not where can I buy the cheapest seeds. Old and inferior seeds can always be bought at cheap prices, but such seeds compared with new seeds of pure varieties are very dear at any price, even as a gift. The past season we spared neither time, pains, labor or expense to produce the best that could be grown. Crops generally in many sorts were short, and prices in large quantities are somewhat higher, but we are pleased to say to our thousands of friends and customers that our stock of garden, vegetable and flower seeds was never so large and complete, and they are strictly new and first class, and nowhere can such seeds be bought at less price. We absolutely know if you will do your part that our seeds will give you such good results that you will be pleased, and thereby help to increase our trade among your friends and neighbors. We believe there is nothing too good for our customers and know they always appreciate and stand ready to reciprocate by saying a good word for use among their friends.

NO FAKES AND NOVELTIES

In comparing our catalog with some others, you will find that we are offering no fakes or "Novelties," at fabulous prices as some are. Most if not all such "Novelties" are usually some standard or old variety renamed in order to fool you into trying them at exorbitant prices. We simply want you to take our catalog and sit down and look through it; find what you want and make up your order and send it in, and we guarantee you to get the best of everything that is grown. All our seeds are thoroughly tested as to germination as soon as they come into our house, as well as again before sending out. We have been in the seed business for the past 27 years, and have learned how to grow seeds and how to know goods seeds, and expect to remain in the business as long as we live; therefore you can readily see that we have a thousand times more at stake than any one customer could have. We are at all times interested to know that our customers shall have the best seeds and reap the best and most satisfactory results that can be obtained from any seeds grown. If any of our customers should receive any seeds from us that proved of weak germination, we would thank them to write us, and **ALL SUCH SEEDS WILL BE CHEERFULLY REPLACED FREE OF CHARGE,** if it be the fault of the seeds. This is what few, if any, seedsmen do.

OUR PACKING DEPARTMENT

Our mail order packing department is complete in all its details. Every invention possible to quickly and accurately facilitate the prompt dispatch of orders, has been made. In this department scores of clerks pick out the orders, check them, pack them, weigh and stamp packages and then deposit them in U. S. mail bags furnished by the Government. This department can fill and dispatch 2,000 orders daily, and during the busy season is open day and night.

WHAT WE DO—FREE DELIVERY BY MAIL

All seeds ordered at packet, ounce, pound, one-half pint, pint, or quart prices are sent by mail **POSTAGE PREPAID BY US** to any address in America. We do, however, sometimes send by express **(PREPAID)** instead of by mail, but only when there is a saving of cost to ourselves, and when convenient for purchaser to receive them that way.

POSTAGE BY MAIL means we deliver postpaid to any postoffice in the United States any article in this catalog offered by mail.

BY EXPRESS OR FREIGHT means that we deliver the seeds to express or railroad here, and the purchaser pays all transportation charges on receipt of seeds. That means quantities listed at gallon, peck and bushel prices. No charges for packages.

SPECIAL PREPAID RATES TO OUR CUSTOMERS: Recognizing our claims as being among their largest shippers the **EXPRESS COMPANIES HAVE GIVEN US FOR OUR CUSTOMERS A GREATLY REDUCED RATE.** Thus a **TWENTY-FIVE POUND PACKAGE** would cost: To points in **Illinois, Nebraska, Missouri, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, the Dakotas, Kansas, Michigan and Ohio, from 40c to 90c.**

To points in **Alabama, Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Connecticut, Mississippi, New Brunswick, Delaware, New Jersey and Virginia, from 90c to $1.30.**

To points in the far west and south—**Arizona, $2.00; New Mexico, $2.00; Idaho, $2.00; Oregon, $2.00; Montana, $2.00; Utah, $2.00; Nevada, $2.00; Washington, $2.00.**

Above gives you a fair idea of express charges. **When seeds, etc., are quoted by express or freight, it means that you pay the transportation charges;** by mail postpaid, that we prepay by mail. $2.00 on 25 lbs. is the highest limit.

Always send plenty of money to prepay express charges, and if any is left it will be immediately sent back to you.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO: MONEY—We prefer all money sent by postoffice or express money order; bank draft or registered letter. Do not send loose money in a letter without registering it; it is not safe, and if it is lost we are not responsible.

POSTAGE STAMPS:—We will accept stamps when other modes of remittance are inconvenient, and prefer them in 1 and 2 cent denominations. Be particular to use due caution so that they may be kept clean and do not get damp, stick together or attach to the order.

DISCOUNTS ON SEEDS—EVERYBODY NEEDS SEEDS:—We offer the following inducements to those purchasing seeds in packets and ounces: Select packets and ounces to the value of $1.25, send us $1.00; for $2.50, send us $2.00; for $3.00, send us $2.25; for $4.00, send us $3.00; for $5.00, send us $3.75; for $10.00, send us $7.50; for $20.00, send us $15.00. These seeds will be sent by mail postpaid; but these low rates apply to seeds in packets and ounces only, and at catalog prices, and not seeds by weight or measure. If you go and see your neighbors, many of them never think of sending for seeds and when planting time comes, go to the nearest store and buy old, worthless commission seeds that have wandered over the land these twenty years or more, thy will gladly give you their orders for Ratekin's fresh, reliable seeds if you will show them our catalog. In this way you will make **MONEY,** besides getting all your seed free. For additional premiums see first inside cover page.

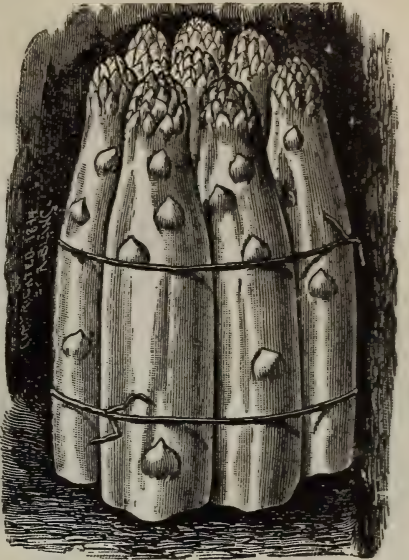
ASPARAGUS

Sow the seeds in drills about one inch deep, and the rows about one foot apart. Keep the soil mellow and free from weeds during the summer, and in the fall or succeeding spring the plants should be set about one foot apart and the crown four inches below the surface. The beds should be narrow so as to permit of cutting to the center. Before winter cover the transplanted beds with about four inches of manure. Salt is an excellent manure for asparagus. Sow a little on the surface in the spring and it will keep down the weeds. The young tops may be cut for the table the second summer but not very freely until the third.

CONOVER'S COLOSSAL. A mammoth green sort of the largest size and of good quality. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 15c; 1 lb., 40c.**

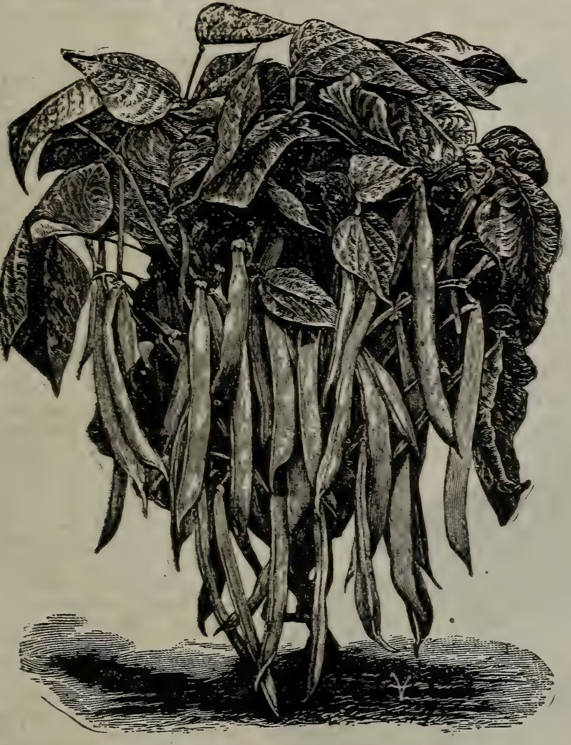
COLUMBIAN MAMMOTH WHITE. A new and entirely distinct variety that produces shoots which are white and stay white as long as fit for use. It is more robust and vigorous in habit and throws up larger shoots and fully as many of them as Conover's Colossal, and requires no earthing up in order to furnish the white shoots so much sought after. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

PALMETTO. Mammoth in size, even and regular in growth and appearance. Usually ready for market before other varieties. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c..**

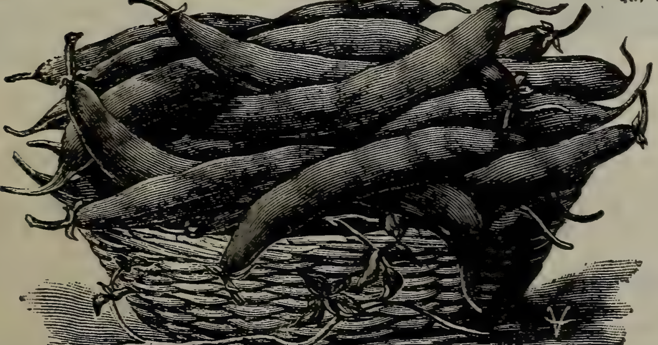


BUSH OR SNAP BEANS

Each packet of Beans will contain two ounces, sufficient to plant about 20 hills. All Beans priced by the packet, ½ pint, pint and quart are delivered postpaid. Persons ordering by express, not prepaid, may deduct 8c per pint or 15c per quart from these prices quoted. Prices by the peck or bushel do not include delivery, but must be sent by express, not prepaid.



WARDWELL'S EARLY KIDNEY WAX.



IMPROVED EARLIEST VALENTINE.

LONG YELLOW SIX WEEKS. Very early and prolific; long green, tender, flat pods; matures quickly. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 40c; by express, ½ pk., 70c; pk., $1.25.**

CALIFORNIA BRANCH OR PROLIFIC TREE. This is quite a valuable variety for field culture. Grows about 20 in. high, has stiff, upright branches and bears immensely, sometimes yielding 45 bu. per acre. The beans closely resemble the White Navy. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 12c; qt., 35c; by express, ½ pk., 70c; pk., $1.25.**

BEST OF ALL. Originated in Germany. Pods long, very tender, succulent, stringless, of rich flavor and an enormous producer. Very popular, especially in the South. Excellent for winter shell beans. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pint, 25c; quart, 40c.**

BURPEE'S STRINGLESS GREEN POD BUSH. It is the earliest green podded Bean. It has absolutely stringless pods. It is the most superior quality, surpassing all other early Bush Beans, both wax and green podded, in this respect. It is very prolific, free from rust and blight. This Bean, we are sure, will be found superior to the Valentine and Refugee, and will take the place of these varieties both for market, home use and canning. It is not only earlier than Valentine, of the earliest strain, but the pods are larger, handsomer and of better quality, and the plants more vigorous and prolific. We advise gardeners to try this Bean. It will be found profitable. Everyone who wants a fine flavored, tender snap Bean for home use should plant this variety. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 50c. By express: ½ peck, $1.00; peck $1.75.**

IMPROVED EARLY VALENTINE. About 10 days earlier than the common Early Valentine. In addition to this it is more robust and vigorous and produces the true, round, curved pods very abundantly. Unexcelled in quality and uniformity of ripening; nearly the whole crop can be taken at one picking, usually within 35 days after planting. **PRICE: Pkt. 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 45c. By express or freight: ½ peck, 75c; peck, $1.35.**

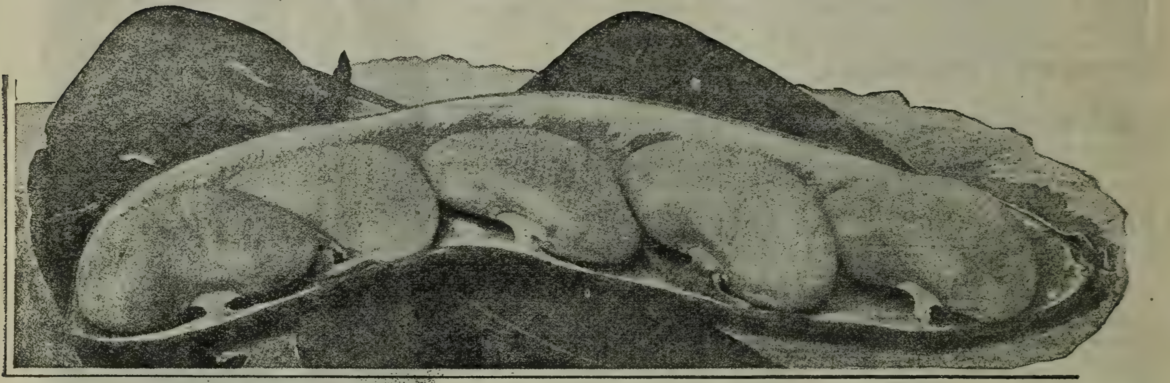
WARDWELL'S EARLY KIDNEY WAX. This is one of the earliest, hardiest and most productive of all Wax Beans. One of the most valuable points in its favor is that it is almost entirely free from rust, and invariably strong and healthy. The pods are long and of a delicate waxy yellow, assuming its color at a very early stage of its growth. The mature beans are large, kidney-shaped, pure white with dark markings around the eye. Not only a first class snap bean, but equally valuable for dry shell beans in winter. **PRICE: Postpaid, pkt., 5c; pt., 20c; quart, 35c. Purchaser's expense: Pkt., 5c; pint, 15c; quart, 25c; peck, $1.90.**

EARLY KIDNEY SIX WEEKS. Vines large, vigorous, branching, productive, with large leaves and lilac blossoms, pods long, straight, narrow, handsome, and when young of good quality; beans long, kidney-shaped, yellowish-drab, with darker marks about the eye. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pt., 15c; qt., 25c; 4 qt., 75c; bu., $4.00.**

REMEMBER—That we prepay the postage at the quart

BEANS

WAX PODDED VARIETIES—Continued



IMPROVED GOLDEN WAX.

IMPROVED
"HENDERSON"
BUSH LIMA
BEAN

IMPROVED GOLDEN WAX

In spite of all the new sorts of beans being introduced every year, our trade calls for more **"GOLDEN WAX"** than any other variety. This great popularity is due largely to the fact that the variety we have is a great improvement on the old **"GOLDEN WAX,"** having larger pods and being much more prolific. This improved stock is one of the handsomest beans that we have ever seen, the pods being of dark, rich golden yellow color and of perfect shape. For family or market you can make no mistake in planting them. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pt., 25c; qt., 45c. By express: ½ peck, $1.00; peck, $1.75.**

DAVIS WHITE WAX. A new white, rustless, productive, wax-podded bean; pods flat, very long, white, straight and handsome; seeds clear white; excels all others in hardiness and productiveness. Valuable for market gardeners' and canners' use. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 50c. By express: ½ peck, $1.00; peck, $1.90.**

GERMAN BLACK WAX. We are so thoroughly satisfied with this improved strain of Black Wax that we have discarded the old stock altogether; this being more vigorous and far more productive, with length, borne well up among the foliage, curved, cylindrical, thick, fleshy and of a clear, waxy, white color, with long, slightly curved point; remain a long time in condition for use as snaps. Beans small, oblong, jet black. No one can afford to plant the old Black Wax or Butter Bean, as this is much better in every respect.

PRICE: Postpaid, Pkt., 5c; pt., 20c; qt., 35c. Purchaser's expense: Pkt., 5c; pt., 15c; qt., 25c pk., $1.90.

DWARF OR BUSH LIMAS.

This is a comparatively new class of Lima Beans that is becoming very popular. They are of true bush form, growing only 15 to 20 inches high, and are fully two weeks earlier than the climbing Limas. Very desirable, as their cultivation does away with the labor of staking.

BURPEE'S DWARF LIMA. The only true form of the large, luscious Lima Bean. As large as the common Lima and equal to it in every respect. Enormously productive. Dwarf bush form, growing only about 18 inches high. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 50c; peck, $1.50; bu., $5.75.**

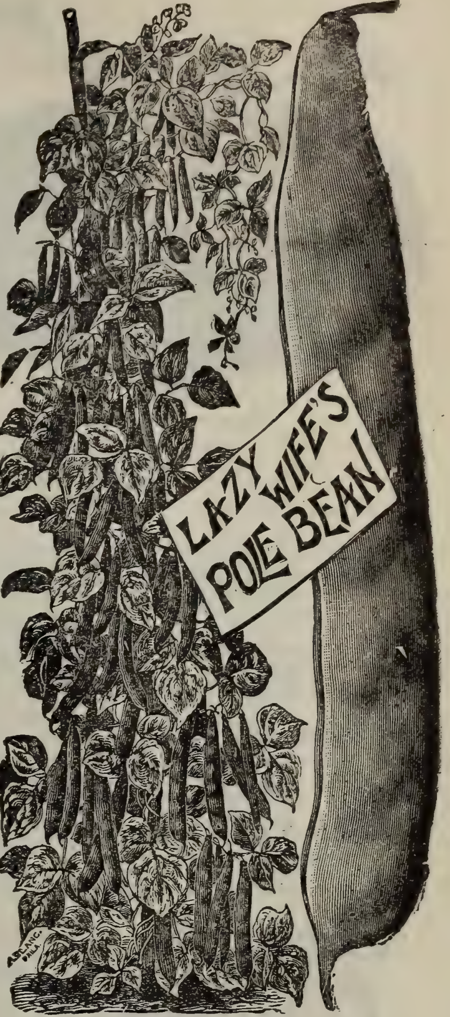
LIMA WAX. A great bean; dwarf. Produces tremendous quantities of broad, thick, meaty, wax pods of light color. Seed white, of Lima flavor. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c. By express: Pk., $1.70; bu., $5.50.**

JACKSON'S WONDER. An exceedingly productive and early new variety of the Dwarf Lima. Pods are broad and flat; beans medium size, beautifully variegated. Popular in the South. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; pt., 25c; qt., 50c; peck, $1.50; bu., $5.75.**

HENDERSON'S BUSH LIMA BEANS. Magnificent dwarf growing Lima; very early, of a delicious flavor, extremely productive and should be planted in every garden in America. It's early. It's fine. It's just the thing for a family garden. It is wondrously prolific. A package or a pint will furnish sufficient for a good sized family. It is one of those beans that can't be improved upon. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c. By express: Peck, $1.90.**

DREER'S DWARF LIMA. Also called Kremerle Lima. Not quite so large as Burpee's but more plump and very productive. Of excellent flavor. A very desirable variety in every particular. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c. By express: Peck, $1.90.**

POLE BEANS



The Pole or Climbing Beans are more tender, and require more care in culture than the bush varieties. They should be planted about two weeks later and will succeed best in sandy loam.

Each packet of Pole Beans will contain 2 ounces and will plant 15 to 20 hills. A pint will plant about 100 hills.

KENTUCKY WONDER OR OLD HOMESTEAD.

We can recommend this as one of the earliest and most satisfactory of all Green Podded Pole Beans, and unsurpassed for using in the green state. It is enormously productive; the long, silvery, green pods hanging in great clusters from top to bottom of the pole. While young the pods somewhat resemble the popular old Refugee. This is the best and most profitable bean for the market gardener, the pods being so showy and produced so abundantly. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c; peck, $1.90.**

LAZY WIFE POLE BEAN. The pods are produced in great abundance and measure from 6 to 8 inches in length; they are broad, thick, very fleshy and entirely stringless. The pods retain their rich, tender and stringless qualities until nearly ripe, and are unsurpassed in all stages. Each pod contains 6 to 8 round, white beans which make excellent winter shell beans. They are late to mature, but are valuable to extend the season. This is an excellent bean, and is sure to give satisfaction. **Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c; pk., $1.90.**

WHITE DUTCH CASE KNIFE. Yields an immense crop of handsome, flat white beans of excellent flavor. Cooks easily. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 35c. By express: ½ peck, $1.00; peck, $1.75.**

RED, SPECKLED, CUT SHORT, OR CORN HILL.

An old variety, very popular for planting among corn. It will give a good crop without the use of poles; vines medium, twining loosely, with dark colored, smooth leaves and white blossoms in small clusters; pods short, cylindrical and tender; beans nearly oblong, cut off diagonally at the ends; white, covered at one end and slightly over the whole surface with reddish-brown dots. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pt., 15c; qt., 35c; peck, $1.75; bushel, $5.00.**

MAMMOTH CARMINE PODDED. Probably the largest bean grown, except some of the Limas. It is entirely distinct from all others. **Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 35c.**

HORTICULTURAL POLE BEAN. The mammoth pods are beautifully striped and splashed with brilliant carmine; very showy and attractive, and the immense beans are of the best quality. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c.**

BEETS

CULTURE. The best results are obtained on a deep, sandy loam. For general crop sow as soon as the ground will permit in drills 18 inches apart and thin out to 3 inches in the row. For winter use the turnip varieties may be sown in June, and the beets may be kept by storing in a cellar and keeping covered with sand or sandy soil to prevent wilting, or they may be kept out doors in pits such as are used for apples and potatoes. One or two ounces, or single packets of two or three sorts, will give a good supply for a large family. It is best to sow in freshly prepared soil, which should be pressed firmly over the seed. One ounce sows 50 feet of drill; four or six pounds for one acre.

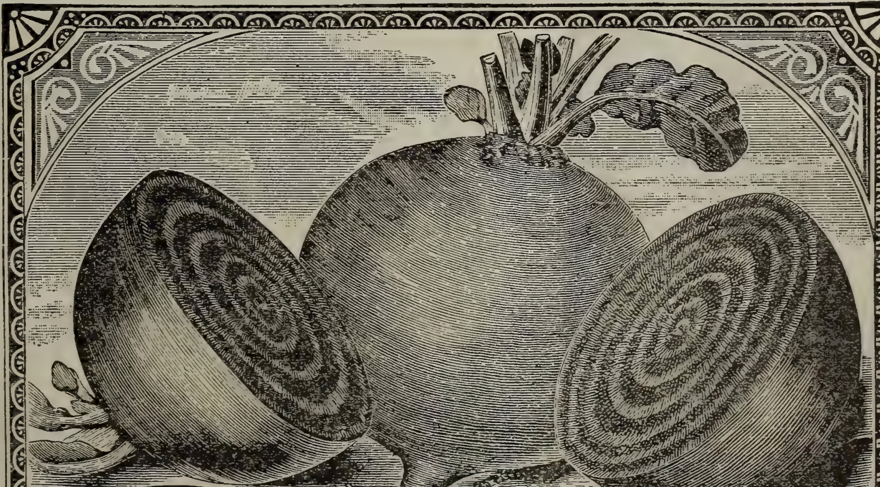
EXTRA EARLY EGYPTIAN BLOOD TURNIP. The best variety for forcing, and excellent for first early crop out of doors, being very early, with small top. Leaf stems with veins dark red; leaf dark green, dotted with red; roots very dark red, rounded on top but flat beneath, with very small tap roots; flesh dark red, zoned with lighter shade; hard, crisp and tender when young, but becoming woody with age.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

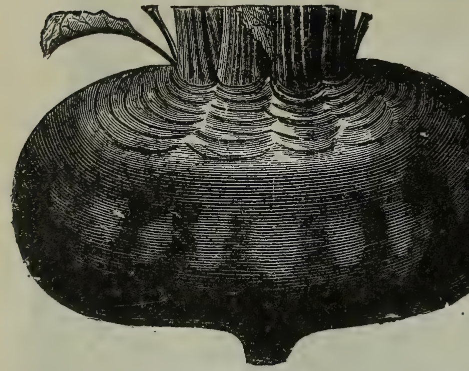
EDMAND'S EARLY TURNIP BEET. This splendid beet originated in Massachusetts. It is most thoroughly fixed and uniform in type, being handsome, round in shape, always smooth and of good marketable size. It grows a small, neat, bronze-red top, hence can be planted closely together. Skin and flesh dark blood-red, very tender and sweet. Market gardeners who grow beets for bunching will be pleased with this variety. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

EARLY ECLIPSE. Tops small, dark purplish, green shading to lighter color on outside of leaves. Roots nearly globular, with small tap root and very small collar. Flesh dark red, zoned with a lighter shade; very sweet, crisp and tender, especially when young. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

EXTRA EARLY DARK BEAUTY. One of the earliest ever grown. Beautiful oval shape, and the color is a rich, dark red. Flesh is fine grain and cooks tender; rich and sweet. Its flavor is superb, free from side roots and smooth, and is very beautiful in market. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 18c; ½ lb., 30c; lb., 50c.**


EXTRA EARLY DARK BEAUTY BEET.

BEETS—Continued



CROSBY'S EGYPTIAN.

Crosby's Egyptian

The name of this variety is misleading, as it resembles the Egyptian only in its extreme earliness. It is larger, lighter colored and more nearly spherical; one of the best for early planting out of doors. It is a most excellent sort, becoming fit for use sooner than any other variety, but it is not as well suited for forcing in hot-beds or for transplanting as the Egyptian. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 20c; 1 lb., 60c.**

IMPROVED BLOOD TURNIP. Popular everywhere, roots fine; symmetrical in shape; flesh deep blood red, tender and sweet; grows to good size; fine for early use and desirable for winter. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 15c; 1 lb., 50c.**

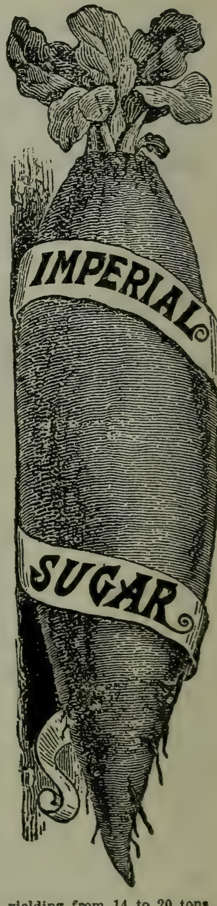
HALF LONG BLOOD. An excellent sort for winter use. Roots not as long as the "Long Smooth," but considerably thicker, always smooth and handsome. Flesh sweet, tender and of a dark red color. An excellent keeper. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; 1 lb., 65c.**

Mangel Wurzels and Sugar Beets

FOR FEEDING STOCK

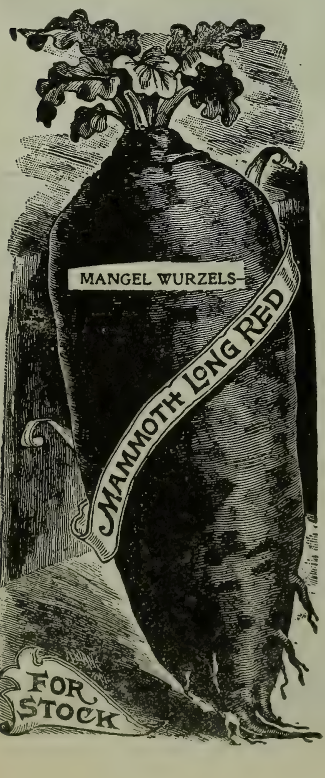
There is no crop grown by the farmer that is more valuable for feeding stock than the Mangel Wurzel or sugar beet. Considering the fact that 25 to 30 tons can be easily grown on an acre, and that the entire crop is perfectly digestible, there being no waste as in corn stalks or other coarse fodder, there is no food more economical. Fattening, breeding and milch cows do equally well on them. Sheep also are much healthier, ewes with lambs give more milk and therefore raise better early lambs. With dairy cows the flow of milk is largely increased and the quality improved. We are glad to note that farmers are beginning to find out their value and that more and more are being raised each year.

It is a well known fact that the best mangels are produced from seed grown in France. All the sugar beets grown for the large sugar factories are French grown seed. We contracted with one of the largest growers in France for all our beet, and mangel seed, and know from actual test that they are equal in quality to any on the market. About 8 lbs. of mangels and sugar beets will plant an acre.



IMPERIAL SUGAR BEET. Many prefer the sugar beet, as they are much richer in sugar, therefore their feeding value is greater than that of the larger growing mangels, while others grow the mangels because they grow larger and more uniform. The Imperial Sugar is considered the best of its class to grow for stock, being more uniformly large and smooth than most varieties of sugar beets. We would suggest that you try both classes and test their relative merits. **PRICE: Same as Mammoth Long Red Mangel.**

GOLDEN TANKARD. The best yellow mangel in cultivation. A distinct and valuable yellow fleshed variety which contains a larger percentage of sugar and more nutritive matter than any of the red-skinned sorts. It has already taken the lead of other varieties in England and is more relished by milch cows and sheep than any other. In shape it is almost cylindrical. It is very easily pulled, exceedingly hardy. Be sure and include it in your order. **PRICE: Same as Mammoth Long Red.**



VILMORIN'S IMPROVED. In general the most desirable beet for the sugar factory is the one containing the largest percentage of sugar. In this variety we have one of the richest sorts in cultivation, and moreover it will do better on new lands than any other variety, from 10 to 16 tons per acre, and containing under favorable conditions as high as 18 per cent. of sugar. The beet grows below the surface. The green leaves are smooth edged and spreading. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 15c; 1 lb., 35c.**

KLEIN WANZLEBEN. A little larger than Vilmorin's Improved and containing about the same amount of sugar. Its yield of beets is from 12 to 18 tons per acre. The beet grows below the surface. The green leaves are rather large and spreading, with wavy edges. A little hardier and easier grown than Vilmorin's Improved. Probably the best sort for the experimenter to use. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 15c; 1 lb., 35c.**

We will supply 5 lbs. or more of Klein Wanzleben, Vilmorin's Improved and French very rich sugar beets at 20c per lb. by express or freight at purchaser's expense.

MAMMOTH LONG RED MANGEL. An enormous yielder, 1,200 to 1,500 bu. have frequently been grown on an acre, and single roots often weighing 15 to 20 lbs. This is generally considered the best large red variety. We do not call it "Eiffel Tower," "Gate post," or some other catchy name in order to sell it. We believe in giving varieties their true name. If you prefer a red variety you will make no mistake by ordering this one.

PRICES OF MANGEL WURZELS AND SUGAR BEETS.

By mail, postpaid: Pkt., 5c; ¼ lb., 10c; 1 lb., 35c. By express, not prepaid: 1 lb., 25c; 2 lbs., 45c; 5 lbs., $1.00.

WHITE FRENCH. A variety with large, long roots, yielding from 14 to 20 tons per acre, and often containing as much as 18 per cent. of sugar. The roots are below the surface. The green leaves are upright in growth. The hardiest and earliest grown. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 15c; 1 lb., 35c.**

$10.00 PRIZE WE WILL PAY $10.00 CASH FOR THE HEAVIEST MANGEL OR SUGAR BEET GROWN FROM OUR SEED THIS YEAR. Report to be sent in by October 15th

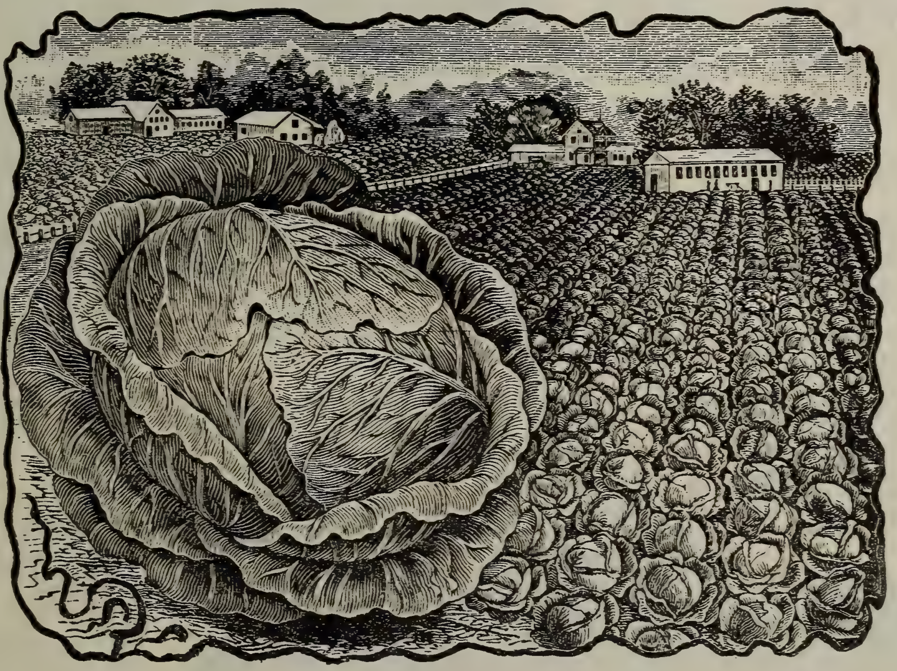
CABBAGE

American Grown—Highest Quality

We pride ourselves on having the best, purest and highest grade of cabbage seed that is offered, or at least it is surpassed by none. Compared with the cost of seed, there is more money in growing cabbage than in any other crop and there is nothing that growers should be more particular about.

The cabbage requires a deep rich soil and thorough working to insure good, solid, full sized heads. Sow early sorts in hot beds in February or March, or in open ground as soon as it can be worked; later or winter crops in May or June, in shallow drills, six inches apart. When the plants are four inches high transplant into richly manured ground, the early kinds two feet apart, the fall and winter varieties three feet apart. Packets contain about 800 seeds. Slug shot and tobacco dust are used to kill insects and worms.

CULTURE. The requisites of complete success are: First, good seed; this plant is largely dependent upon the best seed for its success; no satisfactory result can possibly be obtained from poor stock. Second, rich, well prepared ground. Their frequent and thorough cultivation. A heavy, moist and rich loam is most suitable. It should be highly manured and worked deep.



RATEKIN'S IDEAL CABBAGE.

RATEKIN'S IDEAL CABBAGE. As now improved, the most profitable cabbage ever offered to the American cabbage grower. Absolutely sure heading, 999 out of 1,000 plants make perfect, salable heads averaging 16 to 20 lbs., interior is creamy white; compact and crisp, unequaled for cooking or slicing; flavor especially fine. It is, without exception, the best winter keeper in the world. It will flourish on all soils, in fact, it will prove a gold mine to all cabbage growers. Over twenty thousand pleased customers pronounce this the most wonderful of all late cabbage. The illustration of our field of "Ratekin's Ideal" will gave you only a faint idea of the profits derived from the king of all cabbages. We don't ask you $4.00 or $5.00 a pound, although well worth $10.00 compared with the strains sold by other seedsmen at $2.00 to $3.00 a pound. We want every one of our customers to give it a trial this season; the seed from these we offer you cannot be equalled. **PRICE: Pkt., 15c; oz., 30c; ¼ lb., 90c; ½ lb., $1.75; 1 lb., $3.00, postpaid.**

HENDERSON'S EARLY SUMMER. Ten or twelve days later than the Jersey Wakefield, but much larger in size and will stand on the ground much longer without bursting open.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ½ lb., 60c; 1 lb., $2.00.

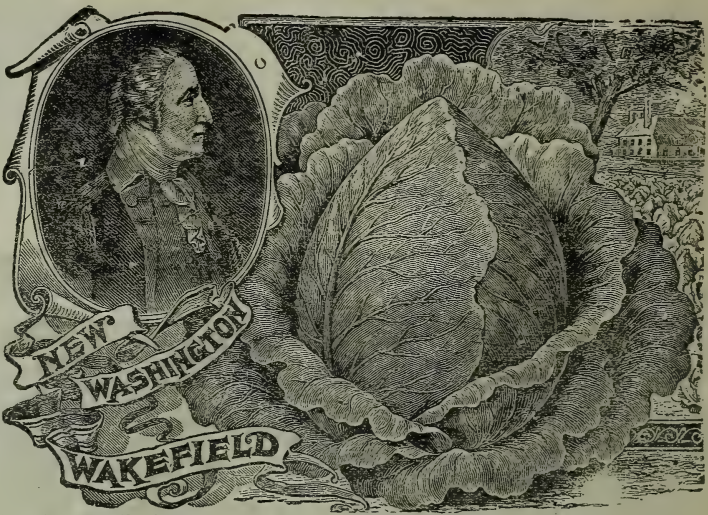
EARLY FLAT DUTCH. This well known and popular variety is considered by many to be the best second early sort; large, flat, solid heads of excellent quality. Does not burst easily. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; 1 lb., $1.50.**

EARLY WINNINGSTADT. One of the best for general use, being very hardy and sure to head, forming a hard head when most sorts fail. Those who have failed with other kinds can hope to succeed with this. It seems to suffer less from the cabbage worm than any other sort. Plant very compact, with short, thick leaves. Heads regular, conical, very hard and keep well both summer and winter. It is the hardiest, not only as regards frost, but will suffer less from excessive wet, drouth, insects or disease, than any other second early sort, and will give a fair crop of heads when others fail. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; 2 oz., 35c; ¼ lb., 60c; 1 lb., $2.00.**

ALL SEASONS. This is generally grown on Long Island for the New York market. Heads very large, round, often nearly spherical, but usually somewhat flattened; very solid and of the best quality, keeping as well as the winter sorts. Plants very vigorous and sure heading; leaves large, smooth, with dense bloom. Remarkable for its ability to stand the hot sun and dry weather. Our trial has shown that heads which were fit for market by July 10th were still salable September 10th, the only change being increased size and density. One of the very best sorts for general cultivation. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; 2 oz., 40c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., $2.50.**

CABBAGE—Continued

RATEKIN'S WASHINGTON WAKEFIELD CABBAGE. (Early.) We introduced this cabbage in 1893. at which time our stock was limited. We received so many letters of praise and congratulations regarding it that it seemed as though everyone who tried it must have written to make known their satisfaction. All gardeners are so familiar with the Wakefield Cabbages that description is unnecessary. The engraving shows the character of the Washington Wakefield. It is fully as early as any other strain of Wakefield Cabbage and double the size. No other stock equals it in earliness, size of head and purity. **PRICE: Large pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., $2.50.** No other cabbage of which we have knowledge has aroused such enthusiasm among cabbage experts as has our Washington Wakefield.



EARLY JERSEY WAKEFIELD. The earliest and hardest heading of extra early cabbages. Our seed is new and good. Heads conical, compact, solid and of excellent quality. The thick, stout leaves and compact habit makes it the best for wintering over and very early setting. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., $2.00.**

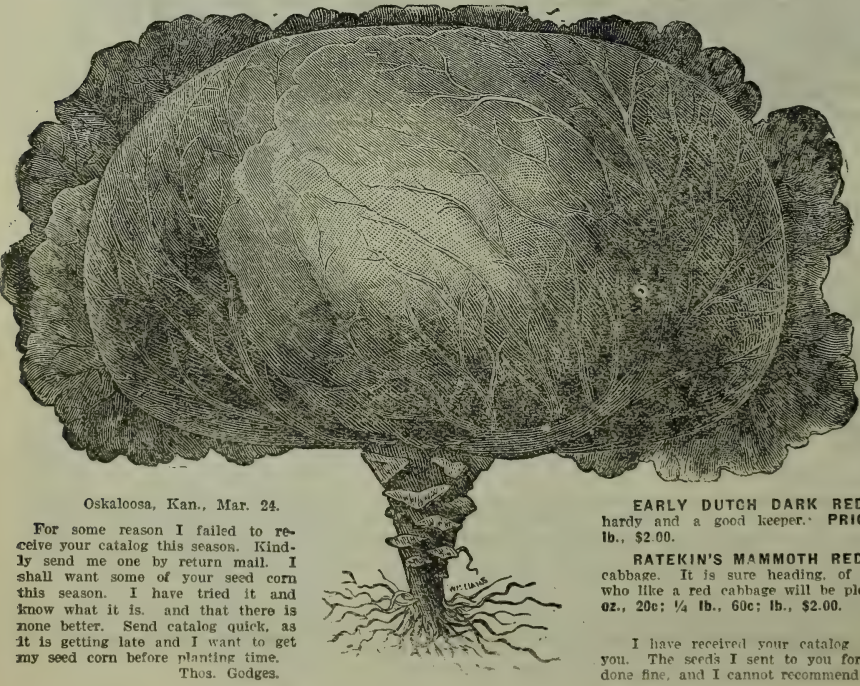
EARLY YORK. Heads small, heart-shaped, firm and tender; of very erect and dwarf habit, so that they may be grown 15 or 18 inches apart. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; 2 oz., 35c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., $2.00.**

RATEKIN'S HOLLAND CABBAGE. (The genuine stock.) In some important particulars this is the most remarkable cabbage yet produced. In fact, it well illustrates the truth that "merit will win," in that while it was introduced only about three years ago, it has already become the favorite sort with those who have the true stock. The heads, which are very solid and deep, are of medium size, averaging about 8 lbs. in weight. In color they are very distinct; in point of quality they have no superior and they keep better than any other sort, the heads being as solid and perfect when taken up in the spring as when put away in the fall. At that time no cabbage will sell beside them even at one-half the price. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 70c; lb., $2.25.**

RATEKIN'S AUTUMN KING. "Autumn King" is an entirely distinct variety; best keeper we have ever seen; it produces enormous, solid heads of that dark shade of green that is most desirable in a cabbage and has such small outer leaves that it can be planted closer together than the ordinary late sorts, and can be relied on to produce a greater weight of crop per acre than any other variety. A distinct feature of the "Autumn King" is the peculiarly crimped leaves, which not only add to its appearance, but enable it to be distinguished anywhere. It is unquestionably one of the best late sorts of today. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 70c; lb., $2.25.**

DANISH BALL HEAD. This winter variety is especially desired on account of its great solidity and its keeping qualities. They weigh more than other sorts of equal size. The heads are crisp, tender and sweet, and unsurpassed for boiling, slaw, sauer kraut, etc. It grows well on all soils and under most conditions, withstanding hot, dry weather and does not rot in wet seasons. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 65c; lb., $2.25.**

DANISH ROUNDHEAD CABBAGE. An earlier, shorter stemmed, improved strain of the Danish Ball Head Cabbage. The heads are hard and very solid and mature about two weeks in advance of the Ball Head. They also average a little larger and heavier. The inner leaves are blanched almost pure white, are of sweet flavor, crisp and tender. It is less liable to blight and shows vigorous growth even in the hot summer. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., $2.75.**



PREMIUM FLAT DUTCH. The best "Flat Dutch Cabbage" ever offered the American cabbage grower. Absolutely sure headings. Nine hundred and ninety-nine out of one thousand plants make perfect salable heads, averaging 16 to 20 lbs., measuring 12 to 14 inches in diameter. Specially grown heads often reach 50 lbs. each. Interior is creamy white, compact and crisp. Unequaled for cooking or slicing, flavor especially fine. It is without exception the best winter keeper in the world. It will flourish on all soils. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; ½ lb., 90c; lb., $1.60.** The most critical cabbage grower in the land need have no doubts about the quality of our cabbage seed.

SUREHEAD. A popular sort for main crop; never fails to form uniformly large and solid heads, which are tender and of fine, sweet flavor. An excellent keeper and a good shipper. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., $2.00.**

EARLY DUTCH DARK RED. Largely used for pickling. Early, hardy and a good keeper. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., $2.00.**

RATEKIN'S MAMMOTH RED ROCK. The best variety of late red cabbage. It is sure heading, of large size and deep red color. Those who like a red cabbage will be pleased with this one. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., $2.00.**

Oskaloosa, Kan., Mar. 24.

For some reason I failed to receive your catalog this season. Kindly send me one by return mail. I shall want some of your seed corn this season. I have tried it and know what it is, and that there is none better. Send catalog quick, as it is getting late and I want to get my seed corn before planting time.

Thos. Godges.

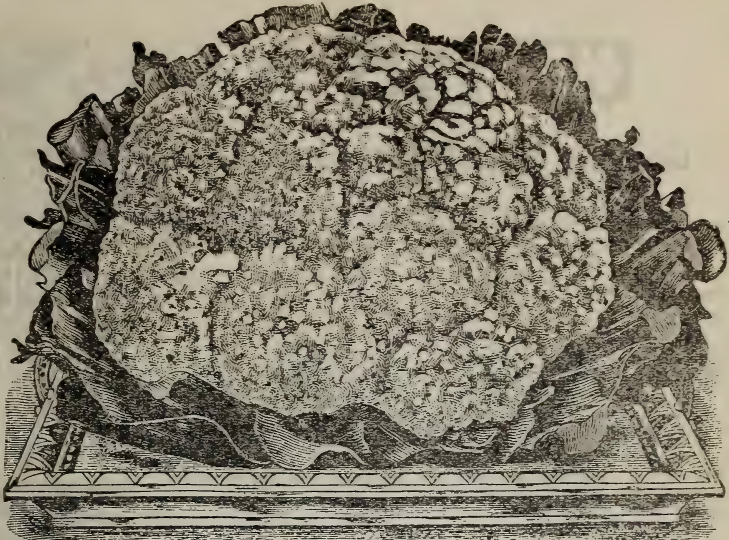
Earle Halloway, Denning, Ind.

I have received your catalog and was pleased to be remembered by you. The seeds I sent to you for last year proved very satisfactory and done fine, and I cannot recommend your house too highly.

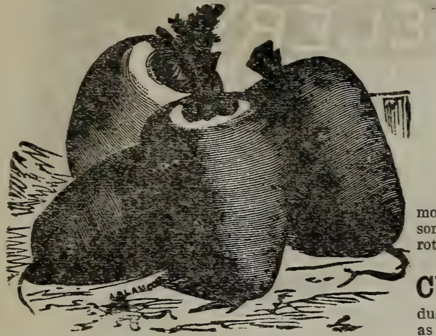
Cauliflower

Early Snowball

Admirably adapted for forcing or wintering over for early crop and the most popular sort for these purposes. It is also one of the best sorts for late summer and fall crop, and with reasonably favorable conditions every plant will form a large, solid head of fine quality. The plants are compact, with few narrow, upright leaves and are well suited for close planting. The heads are solid, compact, round, very white and curd-like, and are developed earlier than those of any other sort. We know our stock of this variety is unsurpassed and is superior to much that is sold under such names as "Gilt-Edge," "Earliest," etc. **PRICE:** Pkt., 15c; 2 pkts., 25c; ¼ oz., 75c; oz., $2.50. An ounce of seed will produce about 3,500 plants.



HENDERSON'S EARLY SNOWBALL CAULIFLOWER.



THE OXHEART.

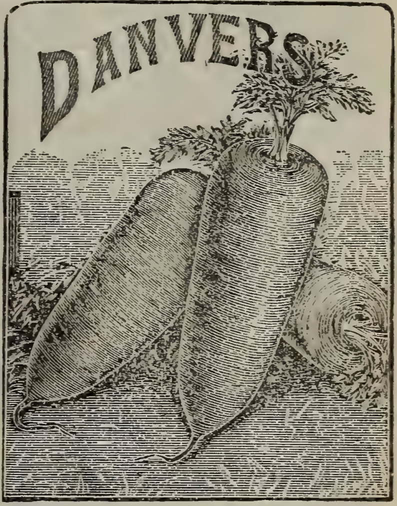
CARROTS

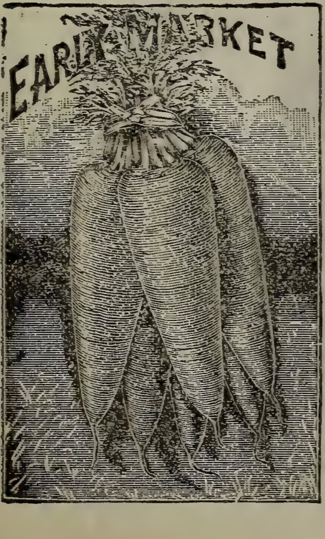
The carrot is one of the most wholesome and nutritious of our garden roots and deserves to be more extensively used, but for culinary and stock feeding purposes. We urge our readers to give some of the early table sorts a trial. For feeding stock, especially horses and milch cows, the carrot cannot be surpassed, and it should be more largely grown by farmers for this purpose.

CULTURE. While a sandy loam made rich by manuring the previous year is the best for the carrot, any good land, if thoroughly and deeply worked, will produce satisfactory crops. When it is possible to do so, it is advisable to sow as early in the spring as the ground is fit to work, though good crops may in this latitude be grown from sowing as late as June 15, but success from such late planting is uncertain. For table use sow the smaller kinds as early as practicable in rows 16 to 18 inches apart. For field culture prepare the ground thoroughly and sow in drills 18 to 24 inches apart, using from 1½ to 3 lbs. to the acre, according to the distance between the rows. Cover one-half to one inch deep and see to it that the soil is pressed firmly above the seed. As soon as the plants appear, use the cultivator or wheel hoe. Do not let the weeds get a start. Thin the smaller table sorts to 8 to 10 to a foot, and the field varieties to 3 to 6 inches apart in the row. For winter use gather and store like beets or turnips.

OXHEART OR GUERANDE

We do not hesitate to call this the most valuable variety in existence. It is intermediate between the Holf Long and Horn varieties, attaining a diameter of 3 to 4 inches at the neck, of beautiful shape and rich orange color. Where other varieties require digging it is easily pulled. It will produce roots as early as any variety and continues of the best quality all the season. It is excellent for hogs and other live stock and has yielded 1,200 bushels per acre. Cut off tops with scythe and pull roots with potato hooks. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 70c.





DANVER'S HALF LONG.

A popular, standard variety of rich, dark orange color. Very smooth and handsome. In form half way between Oxheart and the Long Orange, and wonderfully productive. Under special cultivation it has yielded from 20 to 25 tons per acre. One of the finest varieties in cultivation. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; 1 lb., 60c.

EARLY MARKET. Stump rooted, grows about the size of our Cincinnati Market Radish, excellent forcer; fine flavor; flesh a deep orange, fine grained. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 85c.

LONG WHITE BELGIAN CARROT. Roots of mammoth size. Grows one-third above ground. Color above ground green, and beneath ground pure white. This variety is largely grown for stock feeding. We have grown of this variety on a piece of drained swamp land at the rate of a thousand bushels per acre. Probably no other green root crop will produce more feed, unless it be the New Mastodon Carrot.
PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 15c; 1 lb., 45c.

IMPROVED LONG ORANGE CARROT. The most popular of the older sorts for field culture. The roots are very large, long and tapering; rich, orange in color and free from side roots. One of the best winter sorts and lagely grown for market and stock.
PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; 1 lb., 60c.

EARLY SCARLET HORN. The favorite extra early variety. Very early; color orange-scarlet; fine grained and agreeable flavor. Tops small; has a short, stump-shaped root; grows well in shallow soil. The best early variety for table use.
PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

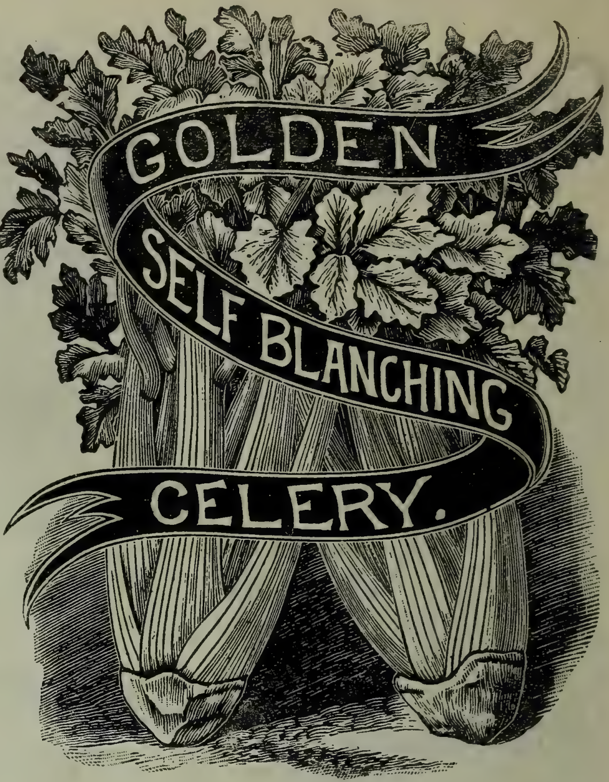
CELERY

Golden Self-Blanching

This is without doubt the most popular celery grown. It is a **self-blanching** sort, for with a little banking up or covering even the outer ribs assume a beautiful golden yellow color, while the "heart" or vine stalks are deliciously tender, brittle and sweet.

We offer two strains of this variety, viz., **Ratekin's "Private Stock"** and **"Regular"** stock, and for the following reason: Some years ago we procured from a celery grower in France some seed of the Golden Self Blanching variety. That year there happened to be a good deal of trouble in many parts of the country with California grown seed of the Golden Self Blanching Celery, for it did not blanch as well as usual, nor was the seed as pure.

Our customers, of course, noted the difference in the quality between the French stock and the California stock, and have always since insisted on having our French grown **"Private Stock"** seed no matter what the difference in price might be. In fact, we have on several occasions, when the particular French stock of seed we mention was very scarce and high in price, sold it readily at from $15.00 to $25.00 a pound, when we were only asking $3.00 a pound for the very best California seed.

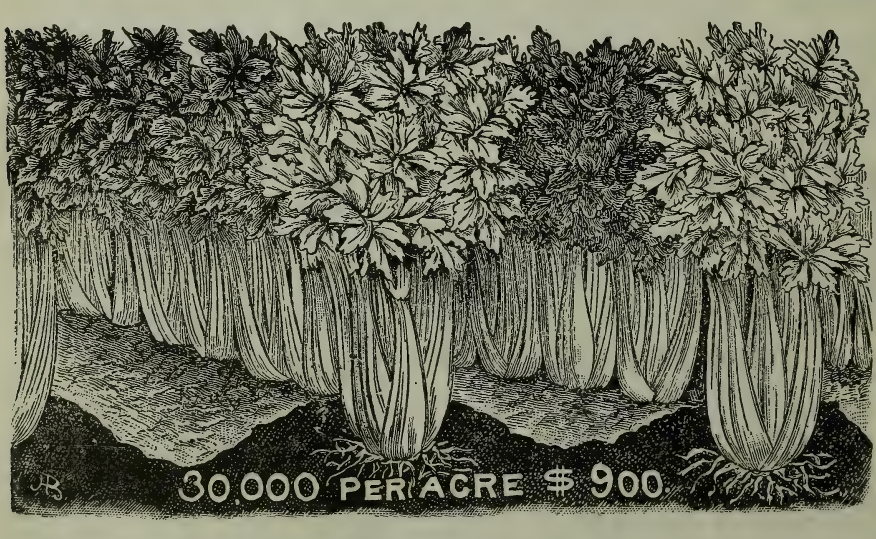


GOLDEN SELF BLANCHING CELERY.

Ratekin's Private Stock. (Sold only in sealed packages.) **PRICE: Large pkt., 15c; oz., 50c; ¼ lb., $1.75; lb., $6.00, postpaid.**

GOLDEN SELF BLANCHING CELERY.

Regular Stock. Price: Large Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 80c; lb., $3.00, postpaid.


30,000 PER ACRE $900.

RATEKIN'S WHITE PLUMB CELERY.

WHITE PLUMB.

Stalks, portions of the inner leaves, and heart, naturally white and become fit for use by simply tying up closely with soft twine. More used than any other variety by market gardeners. Our seed is of the highest quality and sure to please all. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., $1.75.**

HENDERSON'S HALF DWARF.

Entirely solid, possessing a rich, nutty flavor, while it has much vigor of growth and heavy bunch. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 45c; lb., $1.50.**

GOLDEN DWARF.

Waxy Golden yellow cylindrical solid, crisp. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., $1.25.**

RATEKIN'S GIANT PASCAL.

Stalks remarkably large, thick, solid, entirely stringless, very crisp and brittle. A vigorous grower and is self-blanching, clear white. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., $1.75.**

ROSE RIBBED PARIS SELF BLANCHING.

The most beautiful of all pink celeries. A sport of the celebrated Golden Self Blanching, and equal to that variety in all respects. It has the light golden color of its parent, and blanches with the same ease, differing only in the bright rose ribs. A good keeper. Height, 15 to 18 inches. One of the most desirable of the new celeries, especially for domestic use. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 65c.**

RATEKIN'S PERFECTION.

An excellent large growing variety of creamy white color. One of the firest market sorts and a good keeper. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., $2.00.**

Ratekin's Seed House, Snenandoah, Iowa.

Warwick County, Indiana, Nov. 22nd.

The six bushels of Diamond Joe's Big White I ordered from you last spring came to hand on time and found on examination in first-class shape. I planted it May 14th, and in exactly ninety days from the day I planted it it was in full, strong roasting ear, and two weeks later was hard enough to grit into corn meal. I have just completed gathering and cribbing it, weighing the product from five acres, which made an average yield of 111 bushels per acre, 75 lbs., per bushel, of the finest corn I ever saw. I want to try some of Ratekin's Yellow Dent this year and shall be pleased if you will mail me your seed corn book as soon as issued:

Yours truly,

C. C. Cole.

CUCUMBERS

Cucumbers succeed best in a rich, loamy soil. For first early, sow in hot beds, in berry boxes, or in small flower pots, six weeks before they can be set out in the open ground. When danger of frost is over, transplant in hills four feet apart each way. For general crop plant in open ground in May, about 12 seeds in a hill. When danger of bugs is past thin to four strong plants in a hill. For pickling, plant in June. Sprinkle the vines with plaster or air-slacked lime to protect from bugs, or use Slug Shot to kill the bugs.

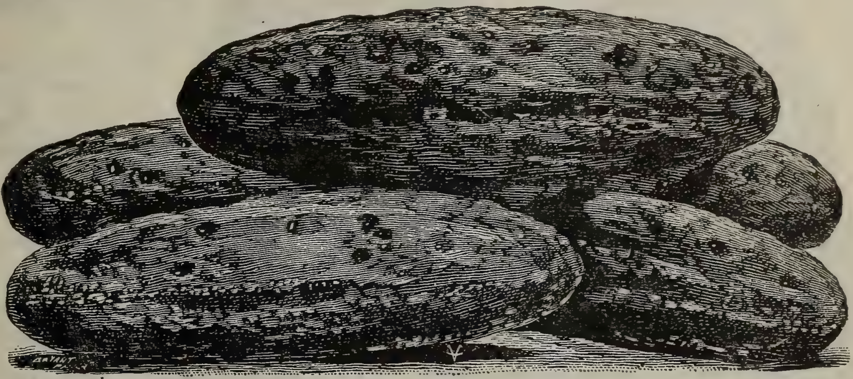
Each packet of Cucumber seed will contain a quarter of an ounce, sufficient to plant about 20 hills. Two pounds will plant an acre.

RATEKIN'S IMPROVED WHITE SPINE

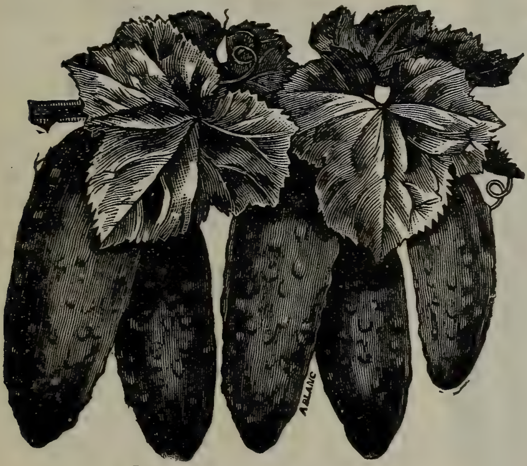
One of the best sorts for table use. Vines vigorous, fruiting early and abundantly; fruit uniformly straight and handsome, dark green with a few white spines; flesh tender and of excellent flavor. In this country this variety is used more, perhaps, than any other for forcing under glass. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c ¼ lb., 50c; lb., $1.75. 5 lbs., or more, by express, at $1.50.**

RATEKIN'S CRESCENT CUCUMBER.

A new cucumber and certainly the earliest cucumber we know. One especially adapted for the hot bed or early garden; it sets quickly and produces beautiful cucumbers in the shortest possible time, and we are confident you will never be without them. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 55c; lb., $2.00.**



IMPROVED WHITE SPINE.



IMPROVED CHICAGO PICKLE.

FORDHOOD PICKLING. A very small, oval, prickly variety, quite distinct from all others. It is grown exclusively for pickles; is the smallet of all varieties, and should always be picked when young and tender. The seed is slow to germinate, requiring usually from two to three weeks. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., $2.50.**

CHICAGO IMPROVED PICKLE. —

This variety, which originated with a leading pickle grower near Chicago, is considered the best variety there is, as t is very prolific, matures early and produces an immense number of desirable shaped pickles. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb. 60c; lb., $1.90.**

EARLY CLUSTER. Vine vigorous, producing the bulk of the crop near the root and in clusters. Fruit short, with uniformly thick end, dark green, but paler at blossom end. A very productive sort. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., $1.50.**

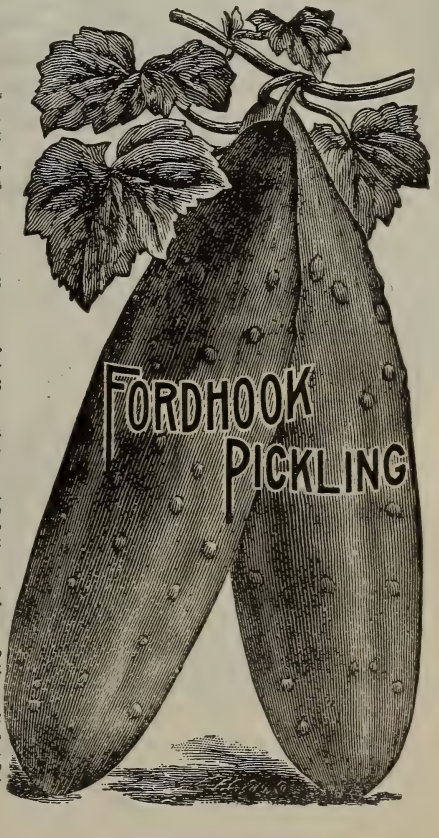
EARLY FRAME. An old and popular variety of medium size, straight and handsome; excellent for pickles when young. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., $1.45.**

IMPROVED LONG GREEN. A standard sort. Vine vigorous and productive, forming fruit fit for the table nearly as early as the shorter sorts; fruit about four inches long, firm and crisp. The young fruit makes one of the best of pickles, and when ripe is the best of any for sweet pickles. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., $1.90.**

BOSTON OR JERSEY PICKLE. Is used almost exclusively by the market gardeners near Boston for pickling. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., $1.60.**

COOL AND CRISP. A strain of the white spine somewhat like the Arlington, but larger. Fruit long, cylindrical, dark green. Fine for table use. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 70c.**

NEW ASTRO. A variety of the highest merit for gardeners, some claiming that they made more money from a crop of these grown early in hotbeds than from any other crop, as they yield a continual daily picking and sell quickly at $1.00 per dozen. Fruit large, perfect shape, 8 to 12 inches long. They are of the very best quality for slicing, as the flesh is white and crisp and they have very few seeds. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., $1.00.**

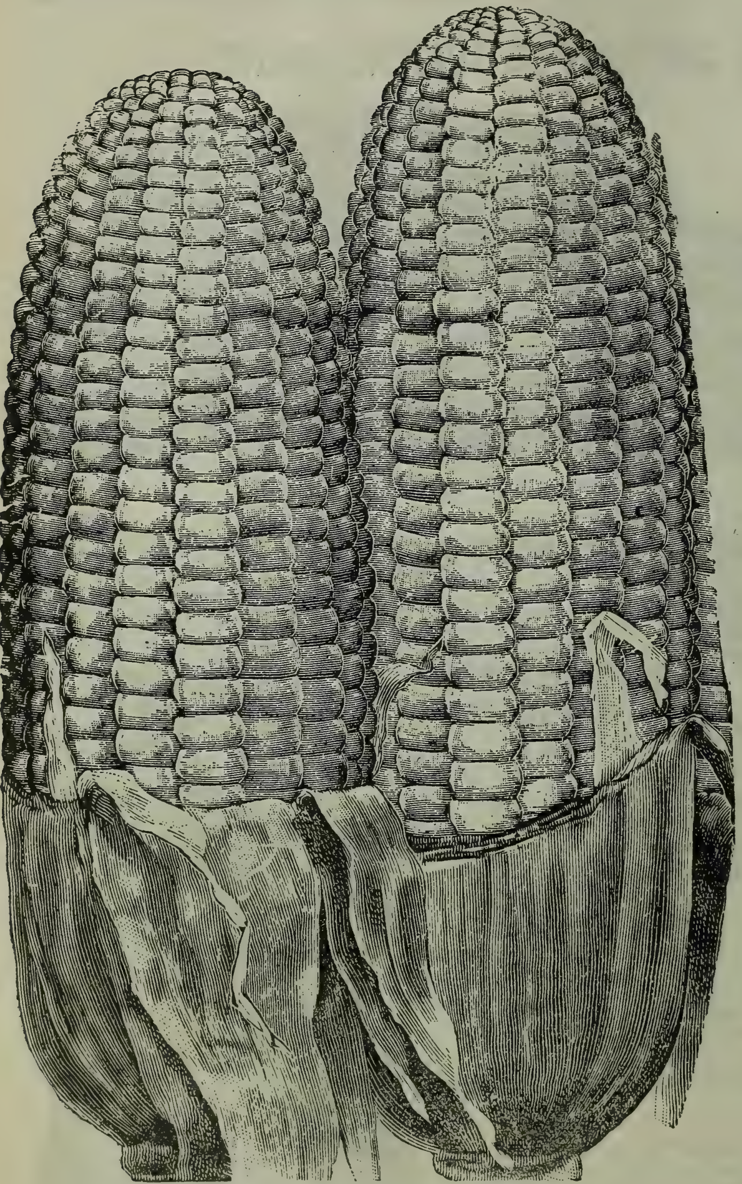


SWEET CORN

SWEET OR SUGAR CORN

PEEP O' DAY

THE EARLIEST SWEET CORN
THE SWEETEST SWEET CORN



Most Productive Most Profitable

We regard our new **PEEP O' DAY** Sweet Corn as the most important vegetable introduction of years. Think of a corn **TEN DAYS TO TWO WEEKS EARLIER** than any other variety and not only the **EARLIEST** but the **SWEETEST** of all Sweet Corn, early or late.

If you do not buy anything else in this catalog, send at least for some **PEEP O' DAY** Corn.

PRICES: Large pkt., containing 300 seeds (sufficient to plant 60 hills), 15c; pint, by mail postpaid, 25c; quart, by mail postpaid, 40c. By express or freight at purchaser's expense: Pint, 20c; quart, 30c; ¼ bu., $1.75; 1 bu., $6.50.

Curled Chervil

(An ounce will sow 100 feet of drill.)

Leaves used in soups and salads. They have a pleasant aromatic taste which is greatly liked. Cultivate like parsley. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c.**

Collards

(One ounce will produce about 3,000 plants.)

Collards are largely used as "greens" in some parts of the country, especially South. They are a form of loose-headed cabbage. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., 85c.**

Corn Salad

(One ounce will sow about 200 square feet.)

A nice winter salad. Sow in September in drills. Just before cold weather cover with straw or leaves. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c.**

The Earliest.

Your Peep o' Day Sweet Corn is the earliest and best I ever got hold of.—Ned C. Walcott, Almond, Wis.

The Best Yielder.

I planted Peep o' Day Sweet Corn for two years and find it the earliest, sweetest and the best yielder of any sweet corn.—William T. Olney, Foster Center, R. I.

Had Corn a Week Before Her Neighbors.

I tried your Peep o' Day Sweet Corn last year and had corn to eat a week before my neighbors.—Mrs. Loveless Wright, Tomahawk, Wis.

Had Corn July 4th.

I got some Peep o' Day Corn of you last year. Planted some April 4th; on July 4th we had corn to eat.—John Pickering, Washington C. H., Ohio.

Best He Ever Saw.

Your Peep o' Day Sweet Corn is the earliest and best I ever saw.—C. M. Shorey, Paonia, Colo.

Something Wonderful.

Your seeds are O. K. in every respect. Your Peep o' Day Sweet Corn is something wonderful.—Adam Gleisner, New Providence, Pa.

SWEET CORN—Continued

MAMMOTH WHITE CORY

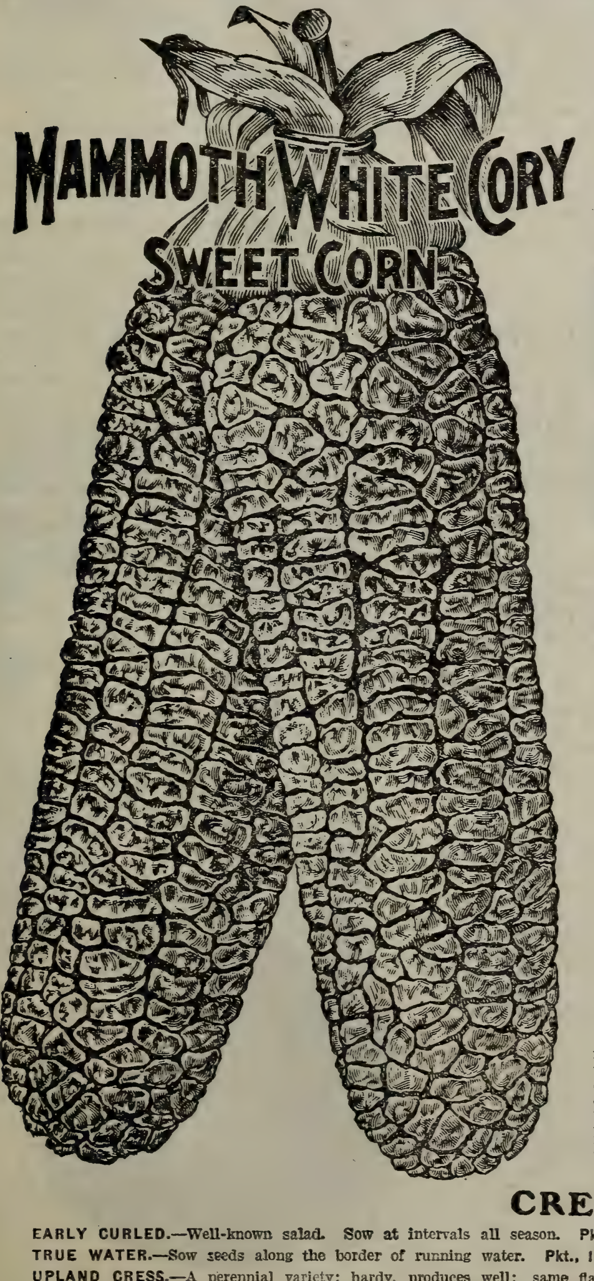
The largest and best extra early sweet corn. The stalks are no larger than those of the "White Cob Cory," but each stalk furnishes two or more large, fine shaped ears, very symmetrical and handsome, with no opening between the rows at the base. The grain is large, broad, very white and of remarkably good quality for such an early sort. The beauty and quality of this variety give it ready sale even when the market is overstocked.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 30c; 4 qts., $1.00.

IMPROVED STOWELL'S EVERGREEN

For many years Stowell's Evergreen corn has been the most prominent main crop variety and is more largely planted than any other, being a general favorite with canners and market gardeners for late use. We have been selecting this for a number of years to improve it for family use. The ears are medium to large size. The illustration here shown is reduced to two-thirds the natural size of an ordinary ear. The grains are deep, exceptionally tender and remain a long time in an edible condition. The dried kernels are shriveled so much that they readily show its unusual sweetness.

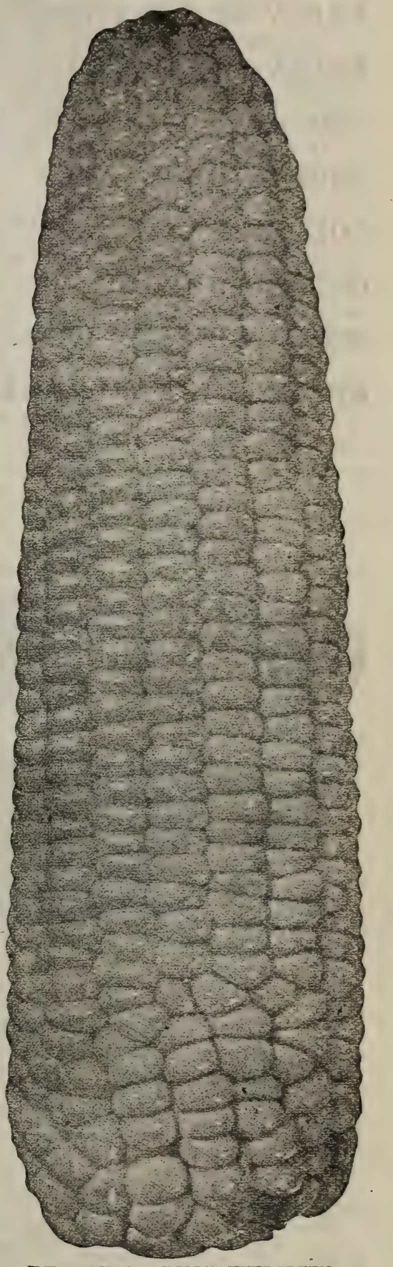
PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 45c. By express: pk., 75c; ½ bu., $1.40; bu., write for prices.



Marshall County,
Iowa, Nov.

The sweet corn I ordered from you last spring grew almost to a grain. The Stowell's Evergreen, made a yield of over five tons per acre and in addition the fodder I saved after harvesting the crop for canning purposes, was worth easy five dollars per acre. In fact stock like it as well or better than clover hay.

Truly yours,
JOHN YARGER.



IMPROVED STOWELL'S EVERGREEN.

Chufas or Earth Almond

A nice little ground nut which is greatly liked by the children. In sweetness and flavor they resemble the cocoanut or almond and are considered very nice put on the table in a fruit dish with candies, and as an after-dinner relish. Very prolific, a single one yielding from two to four hundred. The nuts grow under ground, very near the surface, easily reached by pigs and poultry, and destroyed by them if they have free access. Plant in April, 10 inches apart in 2¼ foot rows. Cover them lightly. If the seed is very dry soak them well before planting.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

CRESS

EARLY CURLED.—Well-known salad. Sow at intervals all season. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c.

TRUE WATER.—Sow seeds along the border of running water. Pkt., 10c; oz., 35c.

UPLAND CRESS.—A perennial variety; hardy, produces well; same flavor as Water Cress. Grown on high, dry land; does not run to seed rapidly. Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c.

SWEET CORN—Continued

PEEP O' DAY. The very earliest variety grown. See page 64.

EARLY WHITE CORY. The plants are usually about four feet high, and bear two or even three ears, which are eight rowed, with large, somewhat coarse but very sweet and tender grain. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; pint, 15c; quart, 30c; 4 quarts, $1.00.**

EARLY MINNESOTA. A standard early variety that has held a high place in the list of sweet corns ever since its introduction. The ears are of good size, well flavored and of the best cooking qualities. Valuable for either private or market use. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 35c. By express: ½ pk., 60c; pk., $1.00.**

CROSBY'S EARLY. For medium early use and general crop this is one of the most desirable varieties. Ears are of medium size and the cooking qualities excellent. A good cropper and profitable for family use and as a market sort. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 10c; qt., 35c. By express: ½ pk., 60c; pk., $1.00.**

COUNTY GENTLEMAN. Certainly a fine sort; ears average nine or ten inches in length, but what it lacks in size is more than equaled in superior quality and productiveness. It sometimes yields as many as five or six ears to the stalk. Deep grained and exceedingly sweet and juicy. One of the best for the family garden. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pt., 15c; qt., 20c; gal., 75c.**

GOLDEN BANTAM. A hardy variety allowing early planting. Stalks grow only three and a half to four feet high and bear one or two good ears per stalk. When ready for use the grains are a rich golden yellow color, very sweet and fine flavor. **PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; pt., 15c; qt., 25c; ¼ bu., $1.25; bu., $4.00.**

GOLDEN NUGGET. This is a new dwarf growing variety, producing an ear which when dried is of a beautiful golden yellow color. The stalk bears several ears which, though small, are very sweet and tender. A unique and pleasing novelty in every sense of the word. **Large pkt., 5c; pt., 15c; qt., 25c; ¼ bu., $1.50; bu., $5.50.**

MOORE'S EARLY CONCORD. Grows about six feet high. The ears, which are borne near the base of the stalk, are large, 14 to 16-rowed and contain short, white square grains of very fine quality, sweet and tender. This variety is excellent for either family or canning use. **Pkt., 5c; qt., 15c; ¼ bu., 90c; bu., $3.00.**

KENDALL'S EARLY GIANT. A meritorious variety, the leading feature of which in addition to its earliness is the large size of ears, which are eight to ten inches long and from 12 to 18 rows. Pure white in color, it is very sweet and tender. **Price: Large pkt., 5c; pt., 15c; qt., 25c; ¼ bu., $1.00; bu., $3.00.**

PEEP O' DAY MUCH EARLIER.

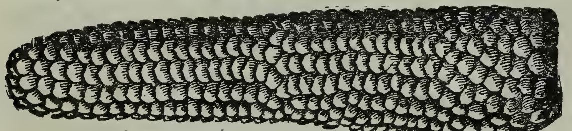
Your seeds gave satisfaction, especially Peep o' Day Sweet Corn. It was much earlier than any variety we have ever tried. We had the best melons in this vicinity.—Amos C. Jacobs, St. Anthony, Idaho.

RAISED THE FIRST CORN.

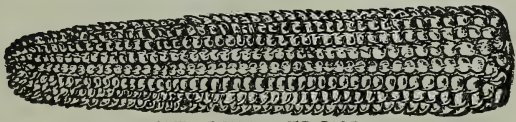
I planted Peep o' Day Sweet Corn last spring. It was the first corn ever raised here. We have late frosts in the spring and very short summers. People said I couldn't raise corn but I did just the same.—F. C. Jenkins, Heron, Mont.

BEAT THE MARKET GARDENERS.

I had Peep o' Day Sweet Corn last year before the market gardeners had an ear on the market, although I did not get mine in until late. It certainly has all the merits you claim. It averaged two ears to a stalk.—L. W. Eddy, Dorchester, Mass.



QUEEN'S GOLDEN.



MONARCH WHITE RICE.

Pop Corn

WHITE RICE. A very handsome and prolific variety; ears short; kernels long, pointed and resembles rice; color white. Probably no variety of pop corn is superior to this for parching. We supply lots of four quarts and less, shelled. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pt., 20c; qt., 35c, postpaid; pk., 85c by freight or express.**

QUEEN'S GOLDEN. Color a peculiar lustrous golden yellow; pops to a rich cream color; very prolific. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pt., 20c; qt., 35c; pk., 85c.**

NEW RED BEAUTY. A valuable new rice pop corn, introduced by an extensive pop corn grower in Illinois. Ears medium to large; color bright red; deep grains and small cob; extremely early and productive. Highly recommended. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c.**

Atkins, Nebraska, Oct. 1.

Mr. J. W. Ratekin,

Dear sir:—I must write you about the seeds I sent to you for last spring. The corn is the best I ever had; the watermelons and muskmelons are fine; the pop corn was O. K., and the onions are far ahead of anything I ever saw and as big around as saucers. I want to grow seeds for you next year, and as you have farmers grow some of your seeds, I would like to get my dipper in and grow some for you, such as onions, carrots, melons and tomatoes. I forgot to say my tomatoes are the best I ever grew, and from the small sample of buckwheat you sent me I grew a half bushel of the finest I ever saw, enough to get a fine start for another year. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain, as ever,

Very truly yours,
JOE BRUDER, JR.

Johnson County, Iowa, Dec. 10, 1906.

I planted 38 acres of Diamond Joe's Big White, from the six bushels of seed ordered from you last spring; planted May 8th, 9th and 10th on good strong clover sod ground, and plowed it three times. Have just completed gathering my crop, weighing every bushel over a Fairbank's scale, and I find I have 3,792 bushels of the finest corn I have ever cribbed in my life. Its large ears, extreme earliness and tremendous yielding qualities make it the most profitable corn I have grown in my 25 years' experience as a corn grower. The change proved a most desirable one, and I want to try some of your best yellow varieties the coming year. Kindly send me a copy of your catalog as soon as ready for mailing.

Yours truly,
JOHN C. ROBINSON.

Three Rivers, St. Joseph County, Mich., Dec. 20th.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa.

I have just completed husking my corn—the Diamond Joe's Big White—bought of you last spring, and have found it the most marvelous corn I have ever before seen. It made a yield of 107 bushels per acre and was well matured and out of danger of frost September 1st. I think there was scarcely a stalk in the entire field but what produced one or more good ears. I shall want a good many farm and garden seeds the coming season, and will thank you for copy of your catalog as soon as issued, and you can look for good order from me.

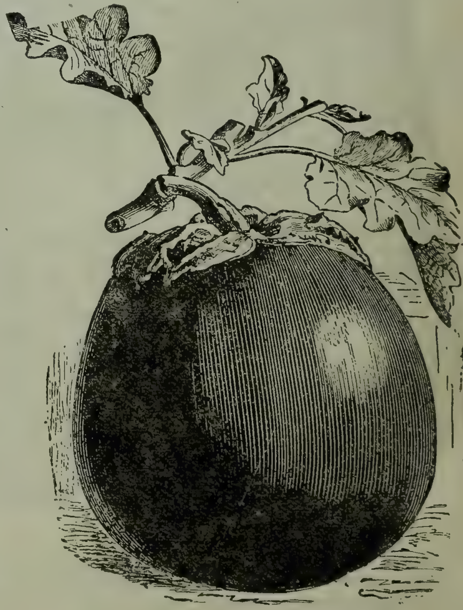
Very truly yours,
JOHN A. GRESHAM.

Egg Plant

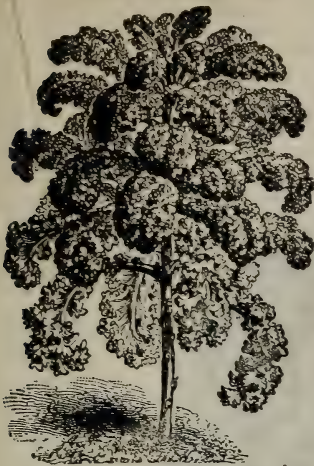
A tender plant which should be started quite early in a hotbed or box in the house, which must be kept warm. Transplant late to open ground, two and a half feet apart.

EARLY ROUND PURPLE. The earliest variety in existence, being several weeks earlier than most others. Fruit is exactly the same shape and color as the "Improved New York Purple," but is somewhat smaller. It is fully equal in quality, and what it lacks in size is made up in productiveness. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 35c; ¼ lb., $1.10.**

IMPROVED NEW YORK. Our strain of this, the leading market variety, we believe to be unsurpassed. Very large size, skin deep purple, flesh white and of excellent quality. Very productive. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 40c; 1 lb., $1.25.**



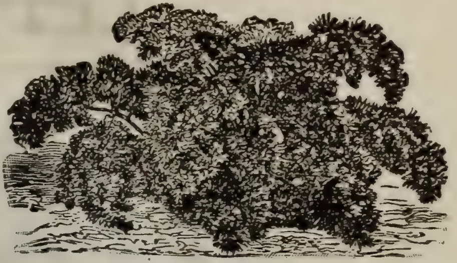
EARLY ROUND PURPLE.



TALL GREEN CURLED SCOTCH KALE

KALE

"Borecole, Kale and German Greens" are general terms applied to those classes of cabbages that do not form heads, but are used in their open growth. Some of the varieties are the most tender and delicate of any of the cabbage tribe. They are hardy and are not injured by the frost.



DWARF GREEN CURLED SCOTCH. Plant low and compact, but with large leaves, curled, cut and crimped until the whole plant resembles a bunch of moss. It would be well worthy of cultivation for its beauty. One of the best sorts for use, and when well grown and cooked is one of the most palatable of vegetables. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 70c.**

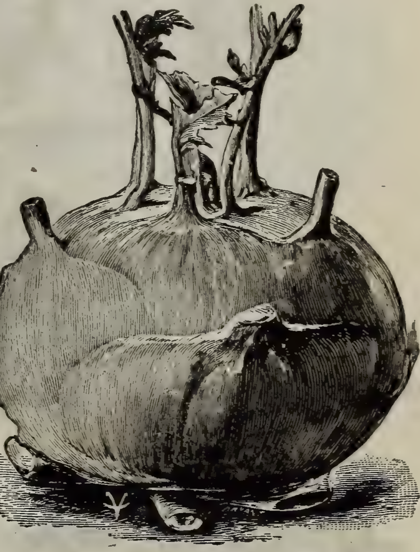
TALL GREEN CURLED SCOTCH. This is very hardy and is not injured by a moderate frost. About 30 inches tall, with an abundance of dark green leaves, which are densely curled and cut, forming a very beautiful plant. It stands the winters in the Middle States without any protection. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 70c.**

Kohl Rabi

CULTURE. Sow in light, rich soil, as early as possible, in drills 16 inches apart, and when established thin to six inches apart in the row. One or two plantings at intervals of ten days will give a succession until hot weather, when they fail to grow well, but plantings may be made the latter part of July for fall use.

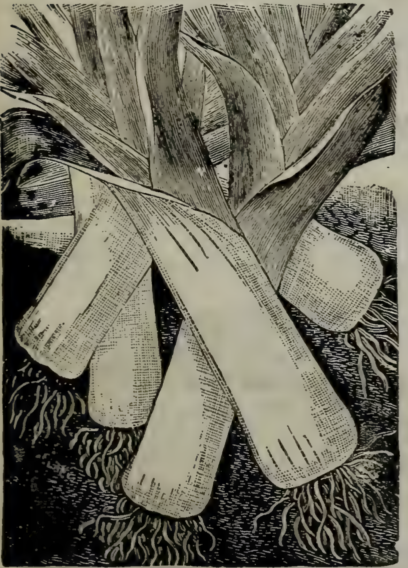
EARLY PURPLE VIENNA. A bright purple. The leaf stems are tinged with purple. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 30c; 2 oz., 55c; ¼ lb., $1.00; 1 lb., $2.75.**

EARLY WHITE VIENNA. Flesh white and tender; good market sort. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; 1 lb., $1.75.**



EARLY PURPLE VIENNA.

Leek



LONDON FLAG LEEK.

Belongs to the onion family and by many preferred to that vegetable. Sow the seed and care for young plants same as for onions, but they need a little more room in order to develop more fully. When the young plants are double the size of a goose quill transplant to a prepared bed in rows one foot apart and four or five inches in the row.

LONDON FLAG. This variety is more cultivated in this country than any other. It is hardy and of good quality. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; 1 lb., $1.00.**

Lettuce

ONE OUNCE WILL SOW 120 FEET OF DRILL.

Probably no vegetable is more universally used than lettuce, and to be thoroughly appreciated it must be brought to the table fresh and unwilted. The quality of lettuce depends largely upon a rapid and vigorous growth. Sow in hotbed in March and in the open ground as early as it can be worked, sow in drills one foot apart. For a succession, sow every three weeks during the season. The soil should be rich and mellow. Thin out plants as they grow.

RATEKIN'S EARLY PRIZE HEAD. It forms a mammoth head, and remains tender and crisp throughout the season; is prompt to head, but slow to seed, of superior flavor and very hard. Leaves of dark, reddish brown color, variegated with dark green. It is an immensely popular variety. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 75c.**

EARLY CURLED SIMPSON. An improved variety of the Curled Simpson, with large, loose heads and excellent flavor. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 75c.**

SELESIA. An excellent spring, summer and fall variety, forming good sized heads that stand drouth and heat longer without injury than any other sort; matures very early. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 75c.**

RATEKIN'S MAY KING. An unequaled variety for early spring planting in open ground. It is extremely hardy and very quick growing. The plants grow six to seven inches in diameter, with the outer leaves folded closely forming the plant into a solid head. The outer leaves are light green, slightly tinged with brown; the inner leaves are bright yellow and a fine rich buttery flavor. Each head will weigh nearly a pound on the average. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c, postpaid.**

MARKET GARDENERS. **(Ratekin's Private Stock.)** Sold only in sealed packages. (B. S.) This is one of the very best of the "Butter" head lettuces. It is a very great favorite with market gardeners on the city markets, and with them holds the lead in point of popularity. This is getting to be equally true in other markets. **PRICE: Large pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; 1 lb., $1.90, postpaid.**

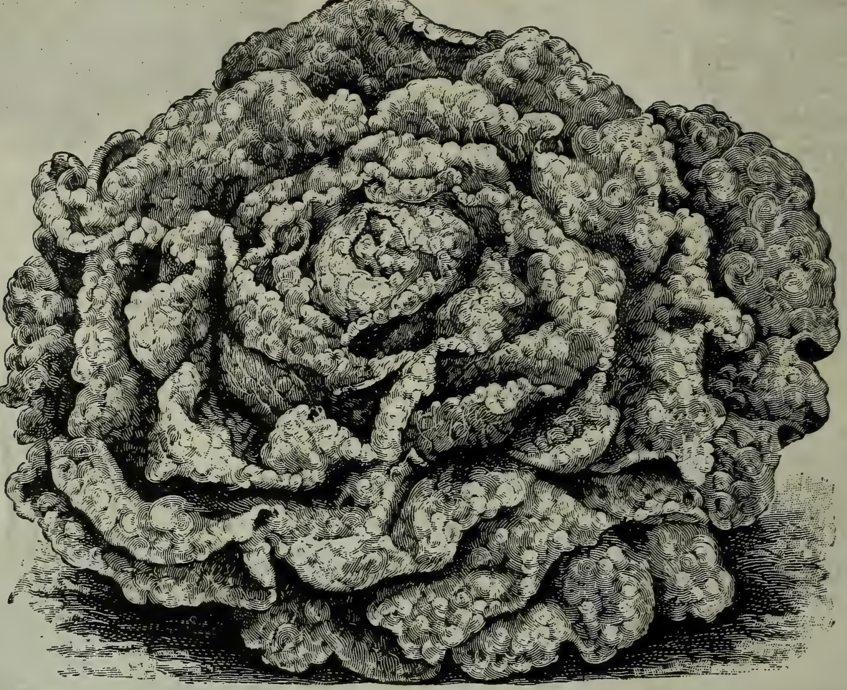
BIG BOSTON. A large heading forcing sort, very hardy and vigorous, with broad, comparatively smooth, thin and very hard, bright green leaves. Quite tender. Indoors this forms a solid head while outside it is distinctively a heading sort. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 90c.** See next page.

Yoakum, Texas, April 1st.

I have neglected to write you about the seed corn I ordered from you. It was received in good time and has been planted, is up and looks fine. I am certainly well pleased both with seed and your promptness. Respectfully, H. MUECKE.

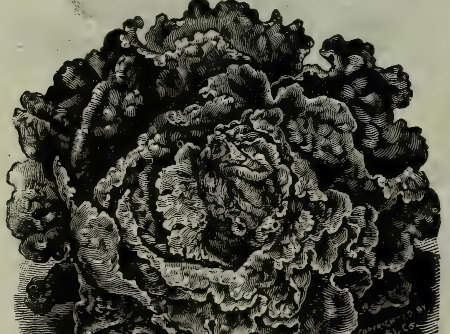
LETTUCE—Continued

One Ounce Will Sow 120 Feet of Drill



GRAND RAPIDS.

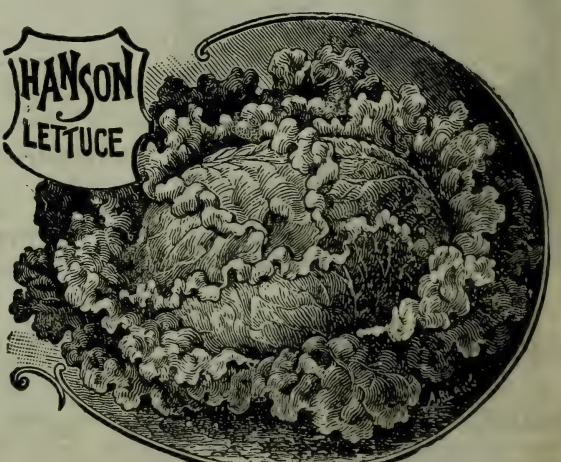
GRAND RAPIDS. A forcing variety of superior quality and beautiful appearance, strong grower, free from rot, and keeps crisp and tender without wilting, when exposed for sale, longer than any other forcing lettuce. It is also a desirable variety for sowing in open ground. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., $1.20.**



BLACK SEEDED SIMPSON.

BLACK SEEDED SIMPSON. It is much lighter colored than preceding; it grows nearly double in size, of fine quality. One of the best for forcing or outdoor planting. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 90c.**

IMPROVED HANSON. For general use for market and gardeners we are sure that no variety can surpass our **"Improved Hanson"** Lettuce. Deliciously sweet, crisp and tender and absolutely free from any rank or bitter taste. Resists the summer heat extremely well. It cannot be too highly praised. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 90c.**



BROWN DUTCH. (Seed Black.) An old sort noted for its hardiness. Leaves large, thick, green tinged with brown. It always forms a large, solid head which is somewhat coarse looking, but the inner leaves are beautifully blanched, exceedingly sweet, tender and well flavored. Desirable because of its hardiness and fine quality. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 80c.**

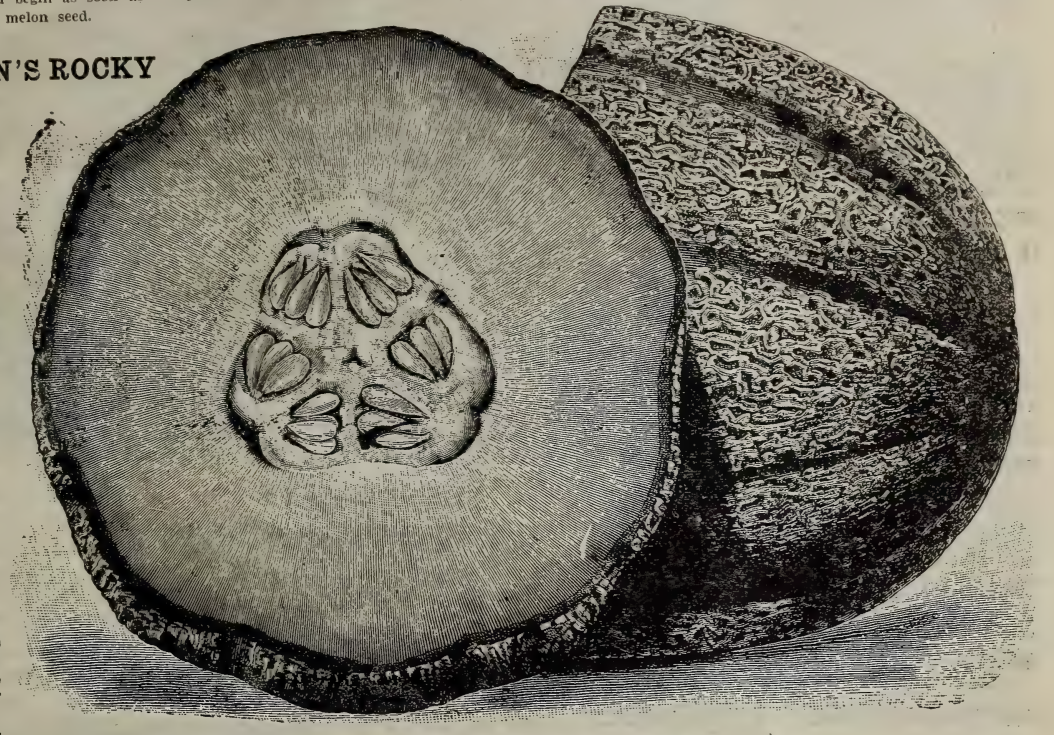
SALAMANDER. (Seed Black.) A very bright green and attractive variety. It forms large, solid heads, composed of thick, smooth, very tender leaves, the inner ones finely blanched and all of finest quality. It remains a long time in head before running to seed. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 80c.**

CALIFORNIA CREAM BUTTER. A variety of Cabbage Lettuce, with round solid heads. Outside of heads are of a medium green, slightly marked with small brown spots; within, the leaves are of a very rich, cream yellow color, most refreshing in appearance, and particularly rich and buttery to the taste. The heads are of a good size, compact, very hard and solid. It is medium early and one of the very best summer varieties of head lettuce we have ever seen. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 90c.**

MUSK MELONS

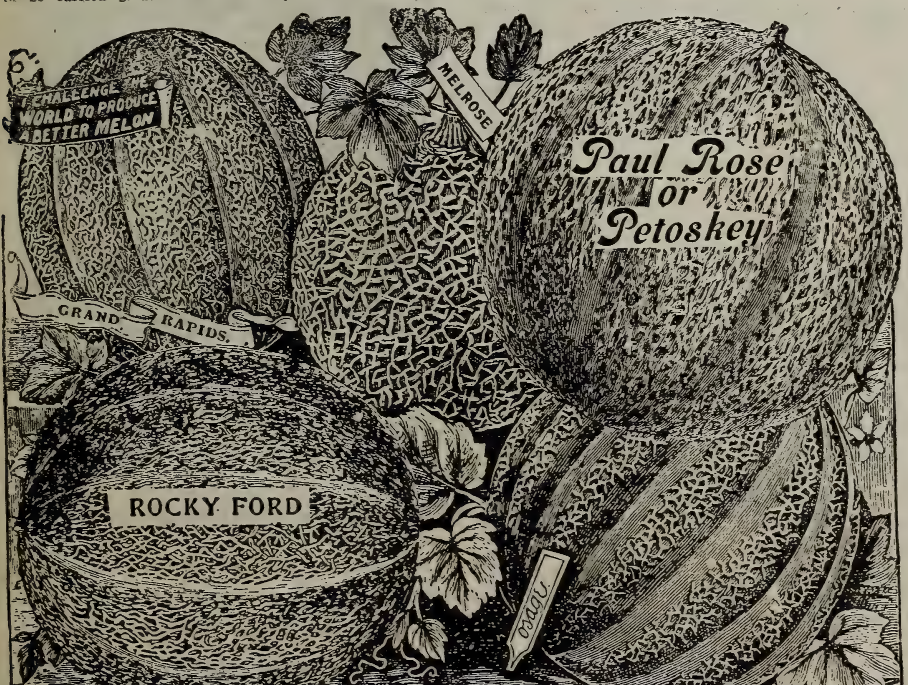
The soil best adapted to the culture of melons is a warm, rich sandy loam. Plant in hills five or six feet apart, each way, ten or twelve seeds in a hill. When they begin to vine thin out, leaving only four of the most thrifty. As melons are very sensitive to the cold, they should not be planted until the settled warm weather begins—in this latitude about the middle of May. Earlier in the South according to the season. Cultivation should begin as soon as the plants appear above ground, and be kept up once a week until the vines interfere too much. You will be pleased with our melon seed.

RATEKIN'S ROCKY FORD MUSK MELON.



RATEKIN'S ROCKY FORD CANTELOUPES.

The Melon known on the "bills of fare" of the leading hotels and restaurants of America as the "Rocky Ford Cantaloupe" takes its name from the little town of Rocky Ford, Colorado, which has become as famous for its melons as Baltimore for its oysters. The shipping of these melons has reached such proportions as to become the leading industry of the town, thousands of crates being annually forwarded to the principal cities of the United States. The reason for the widespread popularity of this melon is two fold. First, its superb table qualities, being firm, sweet and remarkably solid. Second, its wonderful shipping qualities which enable it to be carried great distances and yet arrive in first class condition for market. The fruit is of medium size and oval-shaped, heavily netted and very solid. The flesh is green, thick and juicy. It is very early and wonderfully productive. It is acknowledged by many market gardeners as the best and most profitable Musk Melon that grows. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; 1 lb., $1.00. Purchaser's expense: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 85c.**

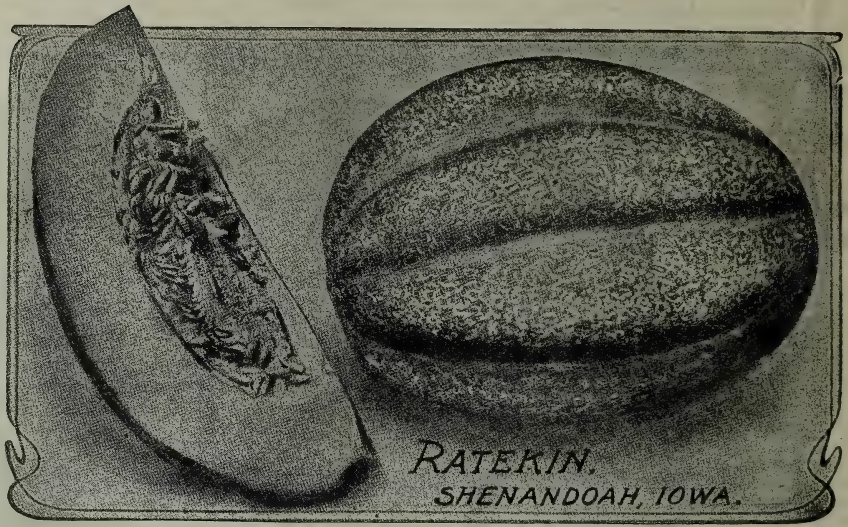


OSAGE MELON OR MILLER'S CREAM.

One of the best melons on the market for family use and also greatly liked by gardeners. The skin is thin, of dark green color and slightly netted. The flesh is salmon color, remarkably sweet and spicy in flavor, extremely thick and delicious to the rind; the seed cavity is very small. It is seldom that one of poor quality is found. The whole crop is very even and extra heavy, owing to the thickness of the meat. All lovers of fine melons should try the Osage. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., 90c.**

Write for special prices on 4-lb. lots and over.

MUSK MELONS—Continued



RATEKIN'S EARLY MARKET.

PAUL ROSE. We have been greatly pleased with this new variety, and we consider it one of the finest sorts. It is a result of a cross of the Osage and Netted Gem and it combines the sweetness and high flavor of the former with the fine netting and superior shipping qualities of the Netted Gem. It is peculiarly sweet, rich, delicious flavor and a long keeper. If you are a gardener plant it and catch top of market prices.
PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., $1.00.

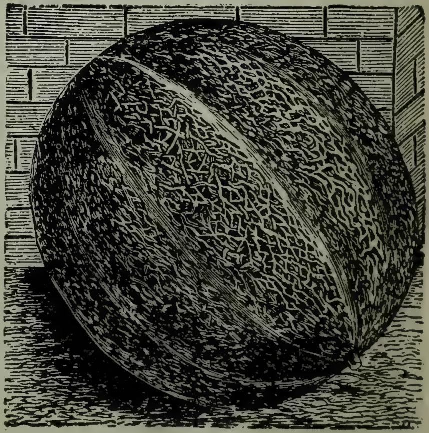
EXTRA EARLY HACKENSACK.

We offer under this name a very distinct stock, different and much superior to that often sold as Extra Early Hackensack. The fruit is medium sized, nearly round, with deep ribs and very coarse netting. The flesh is green, a little coarse, but very juicy and sweet. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., 90c.**

SMALL GREEN NUTMEG. Fruit of medium size, slightly ribbed, globular. Skin dark green, becoming yellow when over-ripe and nearly covered with broad, shallow netting. Flesh thick, a little coarse, but of fine flavor. This variety is in universal demand for both home and market use. It is the size best suited for hotel and restaurant use. Our stock is carefully grown and selected and will be found first class in every particular. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., $1.00.**

EMERALD GEM. This is one of the most delicious little melons that we have ever eaten. The flesh is thick, of a suffused salmon color, almost red, and ripens thoroughly to the extremely thin green rind. It is peculiarly crystalline in appearance, juicy and rich. The flavor is sweet and luscious beyond description. Rather small for marketing but very nice for home use. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., 90c.**

IMPROVED CANTELOUPE. A finely improved variety, often weighing from 15 to 20 lbs. The flesh is thick, light in color and of fine quality. Quite early and a splendid keeper. Include this variety in your order.
PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., 90c.



RATEKIN'S EARLY MARKET. Many years were spent in perfecting this decidedly distinct and beautiful melon. A most valuable characteristic is its close, strong netting. Its vigorous growth gives it great hardiness and ability to withstand drouth, blight and bugs. Its beautiful shape and handsome appearance are remarked upon when placed side by side on the market bench or counter with any of the popular sorts of the day. It ripens only a few days after the early Hackensack, is more prolific, more uniform, bears longer and the fruit is more solid; seldom bursts at blossom end, flavor and quality are all that can be desired. It is green fleshed, with a small seed cavity. A valuable sort for a general crop. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., $1.75.**

JENNY LIND. This is the earliest of the green fleshed sorts and one of the sweetest. It is round or flattened. In size it is small, being from three to five inches in diameter—a very convenient size for serving in halves. It is more largely grown in the great melon producing state of New Jersey than any other sort and is used in enormous quantities in the Eastern cities and at the seashore resorts. The vines are very prolific and the culture profitable.
PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., $1.00, postpaid.

LONG ISLAND BEAUTY. Fruits of large size, well flattened, heavily ribbed and netted. Of very handsome appearance and fine quality. Very highly recommended; ripens as early and is similar to Hackensack, but superior in flavor; green fleshed.
PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 45c; lb., $1.50, postpaid.

PAUL ROSE OR PETOSKEY. Combines all the good qualities of the Netted Gem and Osage, the varieties from which it originated, possessing the sweetness of the latter with the finely netted appearance of the Gem. Fruit oval, about five inches in diameter; shape and general appearance similar to the Netted Gem; of a light green or faint golden hue when fully ripe. Firm flesh, a rich orange like the Osage, but even sweeter and higher flavored; ripens close down to the rind, with small seed cavity; the most uniformly good of any Musk Melon grown. Best shipper, just the size for hotel and table use. Really has no equal as a market melon for professional growers, and one of the very best sorts for the home garden. An exceptionally pure and fine stock. **PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., $1.15, postpaid. Write for special prices on 4-lb. lots and over.**

TESTIMONIALS.

The seeds ordered of you were most satisfactory.—Geo. W. Thomas, Cliftondale, Mass.

The seeds I got of you were perfect. The parsnips did extra well. The melon peaches were grand. Everyone who tasted them were wild over them.—Miss C. M. Firth, Claremont, Minn.

The seeds I ordered of you last year were all right, the best I ever planted.—Fred Danzl, Avon, Minn.

The seed I purchased from you grew as fine vegetables as I ever saw. I have tried different seedsmen and find yours the best of all. I don't ask any better from any company.—A. E. Beam, Dixie, Ind. Ter.

I used your seed for four years and had a better garden than any of my neighbors, except this year I failed to get your seed, the result being a complete failure; nothing that I planted grew.—Mrs. Sue Farmwalt, Jefferson City, Tenn.

I have used your seeds for 25 years and never had a failure in that time. Have planted them from Galveston, Texas to Hagerman, New Mexico, and they always gave entire satisfaction.—W. S. Davisson, Hagerman, New Mexico.

My garden for the last two years has been quite a success from using your seeds; they are clean, fresh and ready growers, and I cannot praise them too highly. I have the first cabbage in my neighborhood; peas and beans in abundance, and the New Icicle Radishes are grand.—Mrs. C. F. Nelson, Fredonia, Kansas.

Write for special prices on 4-lb. lots and over.

WATER MELON

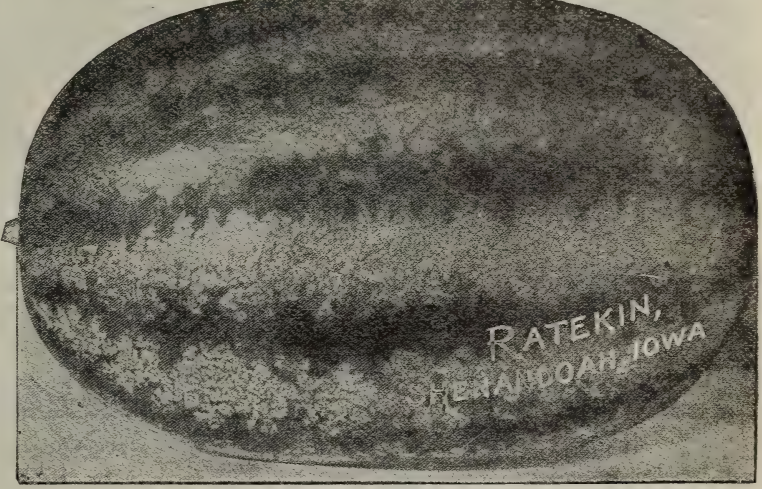
RATEKIN'S CHAMPION.

A cross between Kolb's Gem and Sweet Heart. All that could be said of Kolb's Gem as to good shipping qualities can be truthfully stated in a higher degree of Ratekin's Champion. All the praise of high quality bestowed on the Sweet Heart can be repeated of our new melon, but its prominent point of merit is its extreme size. No melon ever yet produced anything like so uniformly large fruit nor approaching it in productiveness; melons weighing from 40 to 60 lbs. are frequent. It is the most prolific watermelon ever grown. Its color is a rich, dark green, almost black. Of uniform, symmetrical shape, roundish to bluntly oval, and this similarity of shape running through the whole field.

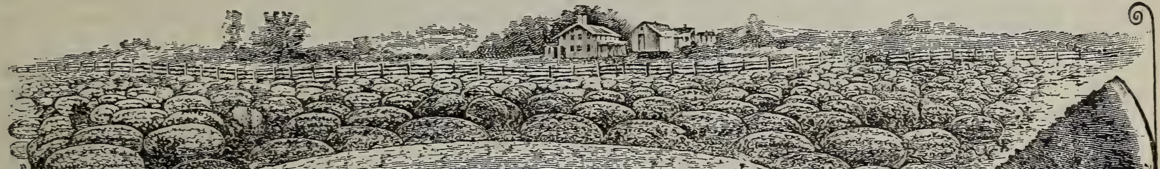
PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 35c; lb., $1.25.

ALABAMA SWEET.

Alabama Sweet is a dark green melon with light seeds. It is first class for shipping purposes. It is of good size, not ungainly like Triumph. Its flavor is simply delicious, and its outside appearance is attractive. Its size and shape are such as to make it a first class business melon. It is good size, not for the South, in the North where it has been fully tested; it is a prize winner in all melon growing sections. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., $1.00.**



RATEKIN'S CHAMPION.

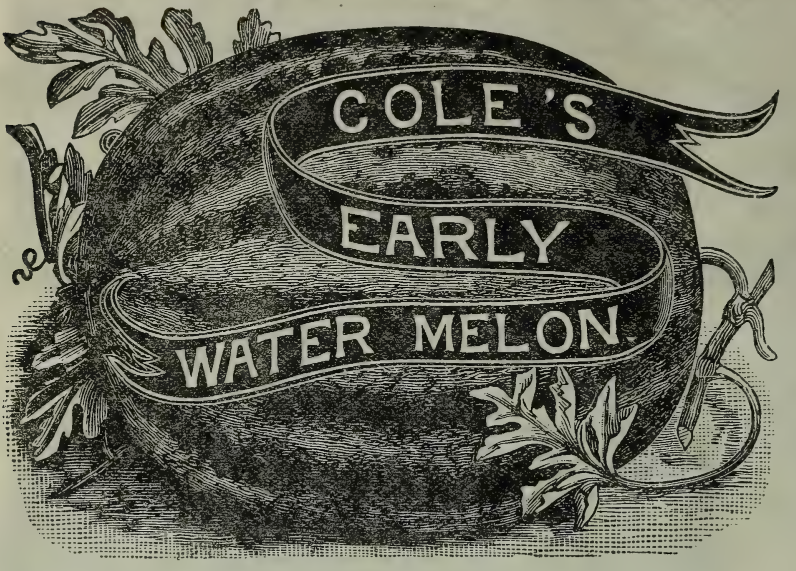


RATEKIN'S NEW NATIONAL WATERMELON

RATEKIN'S NEW NATIONAL MELON.

The reason that this fine new watermelon received the name of National was because of its proven ability to flourish almost anywhere, even in districts where watermelons are not usually grown. The National is a watermelon of medium to large size and of high table quality. It is of Southern origin, but thrives well in the North. In shape it is oblong. The outside color is pale, with dark markings, resembling Seminole, but with markings more distinct. The flesh is brilliant red in color and remarkably solid; so solid, in fact, that a 40-lb. National watermelon does not appear to be much larger than a Seminole weighing only 25 lbs. The flavor is delicious, and the flesh is entirely stringless. The rind, though thin, is very tough, insuring good shipping qualities. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., $1.10. Write for special prices on 4-lb. lots and over.**

WATER MELONS—Continued



COLE'S EARLY. Decidedly the finest early variety for the private garden, but is too brittle for long shipments. It is very early and will mature further north than other sorts Of medium size, very productive, continuing to bear throughout the season. Flesh of bright red color, of granulated, sparkling appearance. In flavor it is lusciously sweet and refreshing. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

SWEET HEART MELON. This melon is early, large, handsome, heavy and productive. Shape is oval; color, mottled light to very dark green. Flesh bright red, solid, tender and very sweet. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

CUBAN QUEEN. This is a large variety, often weighing 80 lbs. and upwards; striped light and dark green; an enormous cropper. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

BLACK DIAMOND. One of the largest and best shippers produced. A quick seller and fine for home market and family gardens. It has a beautiful red core and is sweet and delicious. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

PEERLESS OR ICE CREAM. The great home market melon. The old stand-by is one of the best general croppers for the home market; has too thin a rind for shipping unless packed in straw. We have sold it for years to our most extensive Nishna Valley growers, for whom it brings the highest prices and meets with a ready sale, regardless of other varieties that may be on the market, because it has become a great favorite with market gardeners and melon dealers and consumers. Few, if any, surpass a **True Ice Cream** for quality and productiveness. Medium early; fruit oblong, large size; rind light mottled green; flesh bright scarlet, solid to the center, melting and delicious. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 75c; 3 lbs., $2.00.**

TRIUMPH. A Southern variety which has become very popularity with shippers. The fruit is uniformly large, nearly round, dark green, indistinctly striped with a lighter shade; rind thin and firm, making it an excellent shipper; flesh bright red and of good quality. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

M'IVER WONDERFUL SUGAR. A large, oblong melon of handsome appearance; skin shows broad bands of white, with narrower ones of green. Its soft, pink flesh is crisp, juicy, very sweet and solid to the center. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

KLECKLEY'S SWEET. Large oblong melon. The skin is dark green, flesh bright scarlet, the rind only about one-half inch in thickness. The scarlet flesh is sweet and sugary and is of such texture that it leaves no strings of pulp whatever in eating. The melon is better for home use than for shipping and we believe it is the **Best Table Melon** for home consumption in the world. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., $1.00; 5 lbs., by express, $2.50.**

WATERMELONS.

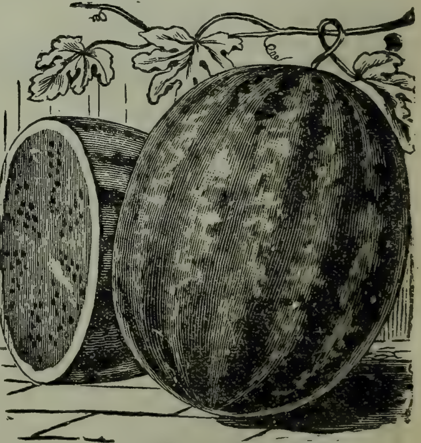
One ounce is required for forty hills; three pounds will plant an acre

A light, sandy soil, with good exposure to the morning sun, is the best for watermelons. It should be prepared deep, but receive shallow cultivation. Hoe often and thoroughly. Plant in hills eight or ten feet apart each way. Plant eight or ten seeds in a hill, and finally, when danger from insects is past, leave but three strong plants. Thousands of melon growers annually depend on us for their seeds and are universally pleased, claiming that nowhere have they ever obtained seed so pure and reliable. It pays to have the best. Packets contain about 100 seeds.

MOUNTAIN SWEET. The old standard. Best quality. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

PHINNEY'S EARLY. Early, medium size and quite productive. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., $1.00.**

KOLB'S GEM. This variety, on account of its excellent shipping qualities, is extensively grown for that purpose. Grow nearly round, and the color is a dark green with lighter narrow stripes—very thin and tough rind. Flesh bright red and of good flavor. Our seed is choice. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., 80c.**


KOLB'S GEM.

Ratekin's Reliable Melon Seeds Please Everybody They Grow

SPECIAL OFFER: We desire to have all our customers who order seeds try some of our superior varieties of Watermelon Seeds. You may select four packages of any of the varieties named in this catalog, excepting Ratekin's Champion, or National, for 15 cents, and one each of them for 15 cents.

CITRON. For preserving; grows uniformly round and smooth; striped and marbled with light green; flesh white and solid. **PRICE Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 35c; lb, 90c.**

I cannot recommend your seeds too highly, especially your cucumbers, tomatoes, melons and beets; and I get more seeds in a package than I ever got from any other firm.—Mary E. Wood, Arcadia, Tenn.

Your seeds are all right. Grape vines good, potatoes what claimed.—Wm. Mommett, Scipio, Utah.

Ratekin's Champion Melon did the best of any and stood the drouth best of all. The melons were all good and salable, and I consider them a fine variety.—W. R. Bronson, Gasport, N. Y.

I do not think your seeds can be beat. I have used them for 15 years with good success.—Thos. Kayl, Hutchinson, Kansas.

We are headquarters for melon seeds. Write us for special prices on 4-lb lots and over.

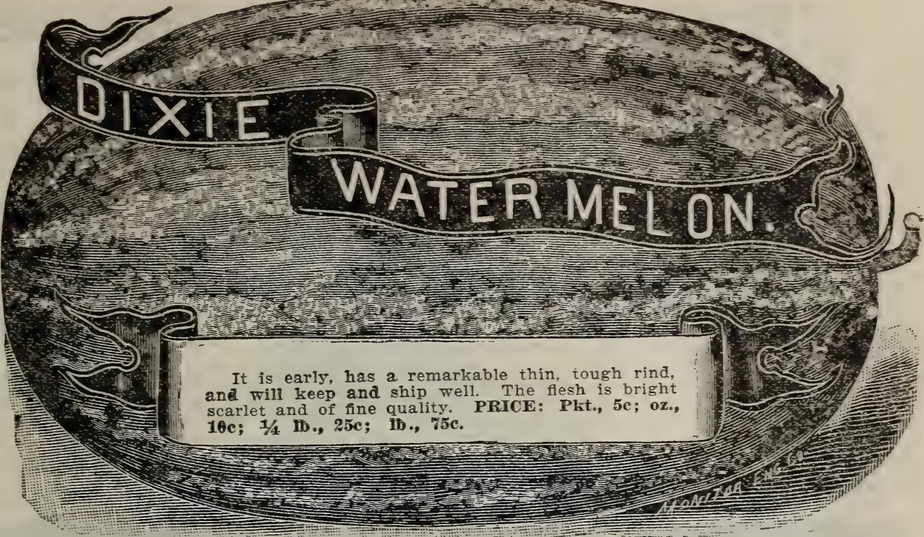
WATER MELONS—Continued

SEMINOLE WATERMELON.

Very large, exceedingly productive, of the finest quality, and the beautiful red core makes it attractive. Sweet and very delicious. Beautiful shape for market. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c; 3 lbs., $1.65.**

MONTE CHRISTO.

In our trial grounds this has proven to be a northern strain of **"Kleckley's Sweet,"** and is certainly a very sweet and delicious melon. It is very large, dark green color outside, and has beautiful red core and is never stringy. It is a grand variety for both market and the family garden. **PRICE: Postpaid, pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c. Purchaser's expense: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 65c.**



It is early, has a remarkable thin, tough rind, and will keep and ship well. The flesh is bright scarlet and of fine quality. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

MIXED WATERMELONS.

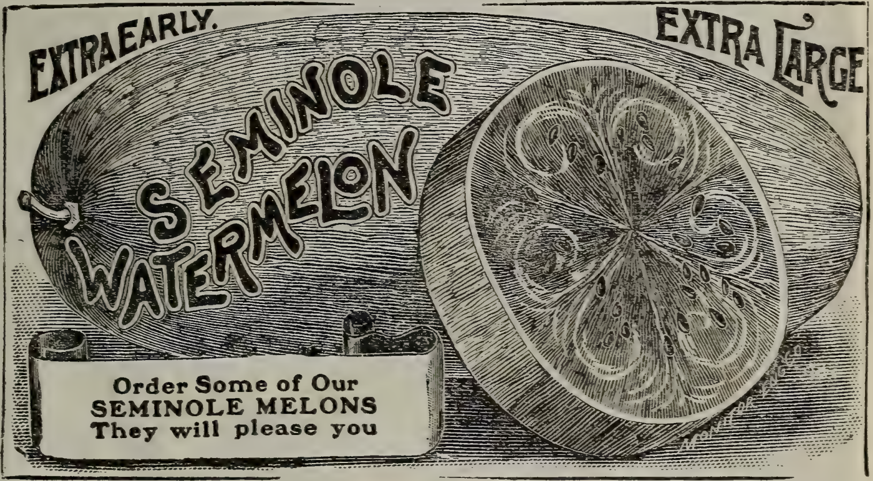
Twelve varieties of the finest watermelons, the largest, earliest, sweetest; grown separately and seed carefully mixed by us. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

DARK ICING OR GREEN MOUNTAIN

Fruit round and of medium size; rind dark green, thin, but very strong; flesh deep scarlet; rich, juicy and delicious. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

LIGHT ICING.

Similar to the preceding, but light variety. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**



Order Some of Our SEMINOLE MELONS They will please you

APPLE PIE.

Grows uniformly round and smooth, striped and marbled with light green. Flesh white and solid, seeds red. It should be borne in mind that this variety is not for eating in the raw state, but for preserves, pickles, etc. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., $1.00.**

PRIDE OF GEORGIA.

A much better table variety than the "Kolb's Gem," though not so good a shipper, owing to the exceeding thinness and tenderness of the rind. In form the melons are an oblong oval, bearing indentations somewhat like the musk melon. The vines are exceedingly prolific. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

GIPSY OR GEORGIA RATTLESNAKE.

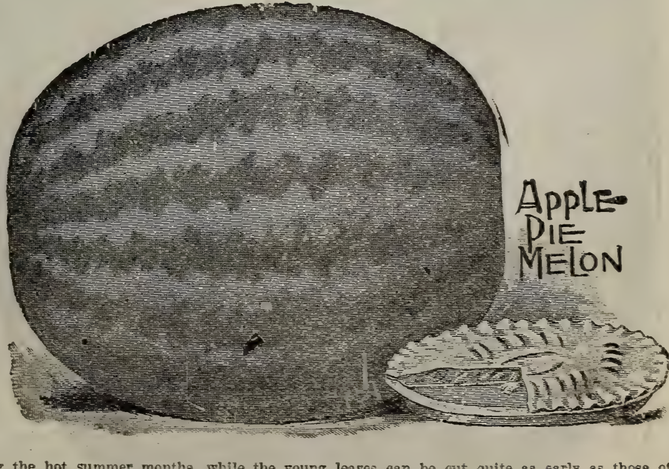
A superior early market variety; large, oblong, the skin green, mottled and striped. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

MUSTARD.

Southern Giant Curled. This true curl-leaved variety is popular in the South for planting in the fall to furnish an early spring salad. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

BLACK BOULDER. Nearly round, very large and heavy. Skin a dark black-green. Rind very thick. A good shipper. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 90c. By express or freight, not prepaid: lb., 80c.**

OSTRICH PLUME MUSTARD. Ornamental as well as useful. The leaves are long, ruffled and frilled and curved as gracefully as an ostrich plume. The edges are curled and laciniated like double curled parsley, making the leaves equally as desirable for garnishing. It stands well, even during the hot summer months, while the young leaves can be cut quite as early as those of other sorts. Pkt., 5c; 5 oz., 20c; ½ lb., 65c.



WHITE ENGLISH or LONDON. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 45c. Write for special prices on 4-lb. lots and over.

Ratekin's Reliable Onion Seed

First Quality Onion Seed—Our Great Specialty

We Would Like to Sell You Your Onion Seed

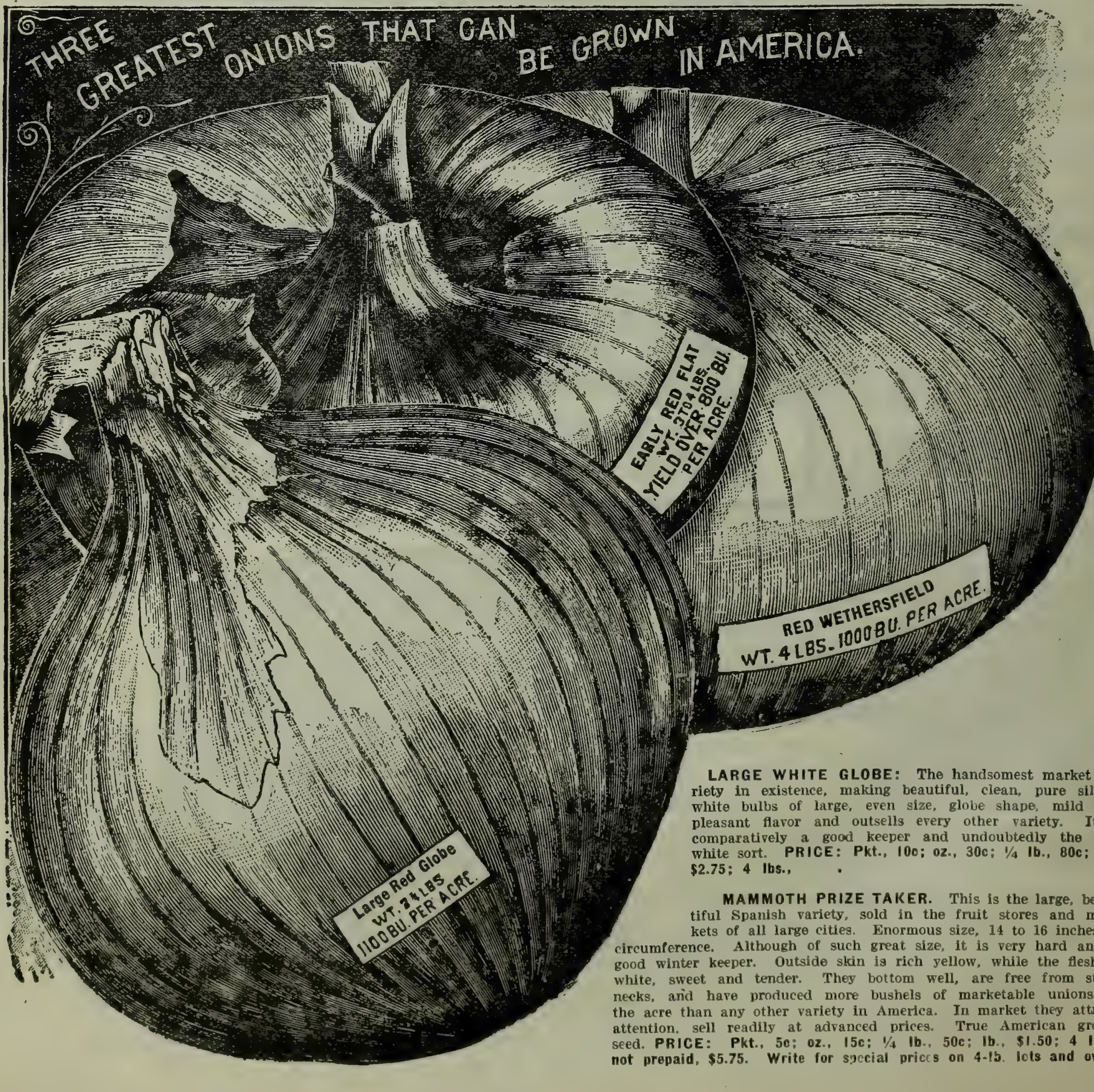
There is no crop which depends more upon the quality of the seed than does the Onion crop. GOOD ONION SEED is of the most vital importance if you expect satisfactory results. The seed we offer we know is not surpassed anywhere, and is always thoroughly tested for vitality before it is sent to customers, so that success is certain where soil and season are favorable **and is equally sure to produce an abundance of well-shaped Onions, free from scullions or stiff-necks. Our one aim has always been, and is, to sell at reasonable prices, and as low as any reliable firm in the American Seed Trade who have an honest reputation for offering only strictly first class onion seed to their customers.**

CULTURE. Onions do best on a rich loam, previously cultivated for two years. Stiff clay and light sand are equally unfavorable. The land should be highly fertilized with well rotted manure, complete fertilizers, etc. Fresh stable manure has a tendency to produce soft onions. Drill in four to five lbs. of seed per acre, one-half inch deep. If sets are wanted use 60 to 80 lbs. of seed per acre. Six to ten bushels of sets will plant an acre. Fine, marketable size onions (according to variety planted) are easily produced the first year from early spring sown seed. Culture should be frequent though shallow. The same ground may be used for inions season after season if well fertilized annually. Bone meal is an excellent fertilizer. Winter storage demands dryness and protection from sudden changes. Onions should never be handled while frozen.

RATEKIN'S RED GLOBE. This early strain of the well-known Southport or large "Red Globe" onion is a most valuable improvement. The handsome shape, color and keeping qualities of this onion make it one of the very best varieties which are always in demand toward spring. **Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., $1.60; 4 lbs., not prepaid, $6.00.**

WHITE PORTUGAL. Very desirable for family use. Flavor mild and pleasant; skin silver white, of handsome appearance; highly esteemed for pickling when young; also for market in the early winter. This is the variety from which white onion sets are grown. You will make no mistake by planting this excellent sort. It will please you immensely for any purpose. Buy your seeds from first hands. Selected stock seed of our own growth. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., $2.00; 4 lbs., not prepaid, $6.00. These onions sometimes called Silver Skin.**

YELLOW GLOBE DANVERS. A very handsome, round or globe shape variety of large size, with thin, yellow skin, white flesh, fine grained, mild, very firm and the best of keepers. It ripens early, sells readily at the highest prices in our markets. This is one of the best cropping varieties in existence, has yielded 1,000 bu. per acre; one of our customers states that his crop averaged over 800 bu. per acre for 9 years. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., $1.40; 4 lbs., not prepaid, $5.00.**


THREE GREATEST ONIONS THAT CAN BE GROWN IN AMERICA.
EARLY RED FLAT WT. 3 TO 4 LBS. YIELD OVER 800 BU. PER ACRE.
RED WETHERSFIELD WT. 4 LBS. 1000 BU. PER ACRE.
Large Red Globe WT. 2½ LBS. 1100 BU. PER ACRE.

LARGE WHITE GLOBE: The handsomest market variety in existence, making beautiful, clean, pure silvery white bulbs of large, even size, globe shape, mild and pleasant flavor and outsells every other variety. It is comparatively a good keeper and undoubtedly the best white sort. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 30c; ¼ lb., 80c; lb., $2.75; 4 lbs.,**

MAMMOTH PRIZE TAKER. This is the large, beautiful Spanish variety, sold in the fruit stores and markets of all large cities. Enormous size, 14 to 16 inches in circumference. Although of such great size, it is very hard and a good winter keeper. Outside skin is rich yellow, while the flesh is white, sweet and tender. They bottom well, are free from stiff-necks, and have produced more bushels of marketable unions to the acre than any other variety in America. In market they attract attention, sell readily at advanced prices. True American grown seed. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., $1.50; 4 lbs., not prepaid, $5.75. Write for special prices on 4-lb. lots and over.**

ONIONS—Continued

MAMMOTH SILVER KING.

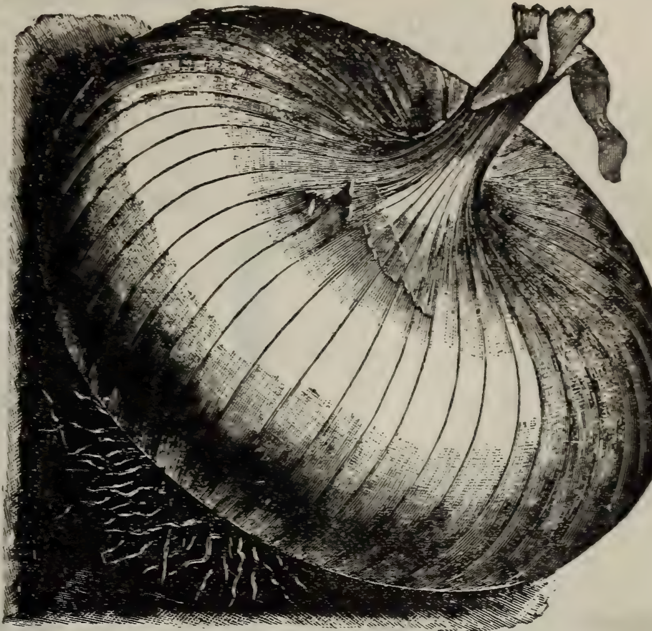
Attractive form, flattened, but thick through. Single bulbs often attain weights of from 2½ to 4 lbs. each. The skin and flesh are white and of a particularly mild and pleasant flavor, matures early and is of uniformly large size and perfect form, and will bring a large price in market. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., $1.75.**

AUSTRALIAN BROWN ONION.

Extra early, long keeping; the most valuable variety introduced in a generation. The Australian Brown Onion is of medium size, wonderfully hard and solid, and most attractive for market, both as to form and appearance. They are extremely early in ripening and never make stiff-necks or scullions. Every seed seems to produce a good sized onion, and the bulb begins to form very quickly—when the plant is not over 3 inches high. The coming onion. Planted at the same time as Red Wethersfield, it proved to be nearly four weeks earlier and ripened off more uniformly. From its firmness and hardness it will keep in good condition longer than any other onion known. The color of the skin is a clear amber-brown. So widely contrasted from any other onion is this color that it will be noticed on market, and when once bought purchasers will most likely call again for those "beautiful brown onions." **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., $1.50; 5 lbs., $5.75.**

GOOD ONION SEED.

Good onion seed is a blessing, but cheap onion seed is an abomination. The country is every year flooded with impure or ancient seed that is offered at a low price, but such seed is in reality high priced, wholly unsatisfactory article. We are sure that first class onion seed cannot be purchased at lower prices than those quoted in this catalog, and confident that no onion grower in America can really do better than to send direct to headquarters, Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa.



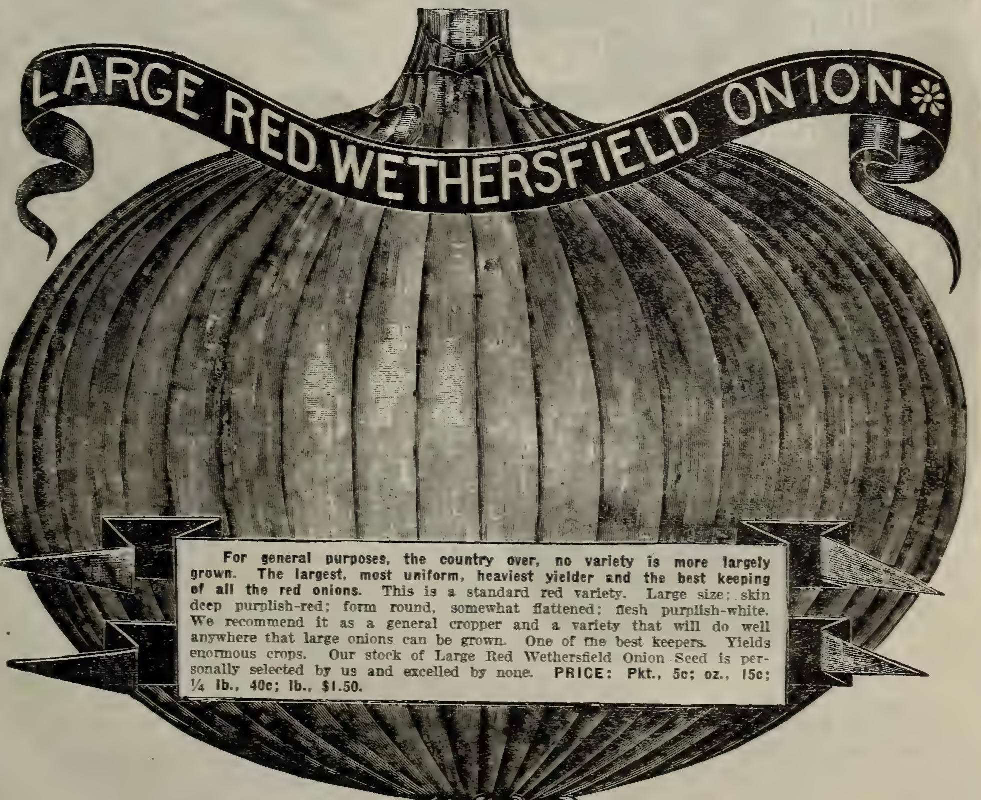
Mammoth Silver King.

FOR 25 CENTS. One packet each of the following big onions: Mammoth Prize Taker, Large White Globe, Ratekin's Red Globe, Mammoth Silverskin, Red Wethersfield, White Portugal. Each packet of onion seed will contain about ¼ oz. Include this collection in your order—you will not regret it.

NEW WHITE QUEEN. Small; noted for extreme earliness and mildness of flavor; much used for pickling. **Large pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., $2.00.**

EXTRA EARLY BARLETTA. This is a new, distinct variety; the very earliest onion in cultivation. It is fully two weeks earlier than the Early White Queen, which heretofore has been the earliest variety on the market. They are pure paper white color, very mild and delicate in flavor, 1½ inches in diameter and ⅜ of an inch in thickness. For table use and pickling it is most valuable. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 65c; lb., $2.00.**

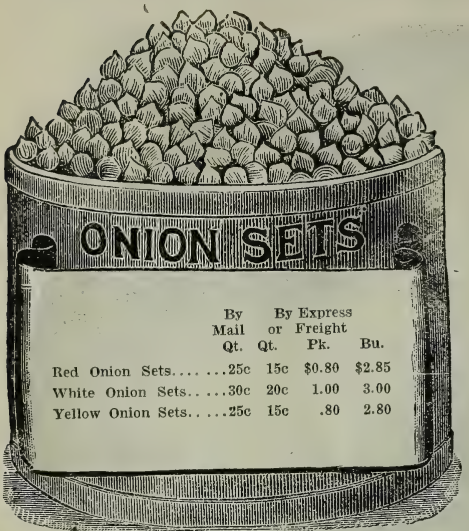
SPECIAL PRICES. As prices on onion seeds are subject to change during the season we request people desiring to purchase in large quantity to write for **Special Quotations.**



For general purposes, the country over, no variety is more largely grown. The largest, most uniform, heaviest yielder and the best keeping of all the red onions. This is a standard red variety. Large size; skin deep purplish-red; form round, somewhat flattened; flesh purplish-white. We recommend it as a general cropper and a variety that will do well anywhere that large onions can be grown. One of the best keepers. Yields enormous crops. Our stock of Large Red Wethersfield Onion Seed is personally selected by us and excelled by none. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., $1.50.**

CHEAP ONION SEED IS EXPENSIVE AS A GIFT. This country is flooded with them, but we are satisfied that good, fresh seed, crop of 1916, cannot be purchased at lower prices than quoted in this book. The figures given herewith are the lowest prices we will likely be able to quote. Bear in mind, good, sound, plump seed has always been one of our greatest specialties, and that more than 10,000 onion growers look to us annually for their supply of seed. **For Onion Sets see next page.**

ONIONS—Continued



	By Mail Qt.	By Express or Freight Qt.	Pk.	Bu.
Red Onion Sets......	25c	15c	$0.80	$2.85
White Onion Sets.....	30c	20c	1.00	3.00
Yellow Onion Sets.....	25c	15c	.80	2.80

GIANT VERSUVIUS. This grand new mammoth variety is a foreign sort. It is well shown by our illustration. In rich soil, under good cultivation, they grow to an immense size the first year. They are of a handsome globe shape, somewhat elongated, veritable beauties, and will attract attention anywhere. Color almost blood red, flesh nearly white, quality most excellent; much more tender and mild than the American sort.
PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 70c; lb., $2.25.

CHIVES. Perfectly hardy little perennials of the onion tribe, and are grown for their tops, which are used wherever the flavor of onion is required. Plant in small clumps in garden; they will grow readily. The tops appear very early in spring and can be shorn throughout the season; indispensable for use in omelets. **Roots per bunch, 15c; 3 for 35c; doz., $1.00.**

WHITE BERMUDA. A favorite in the South. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 80c; lb., $2.75.**

We offer a prize of.. $10.00 **FOR THE LARGEST ONION** grown this year from seed purchased direct from us. The mammoth varieties we list on this page may compete. Reports must be in by October 15th.

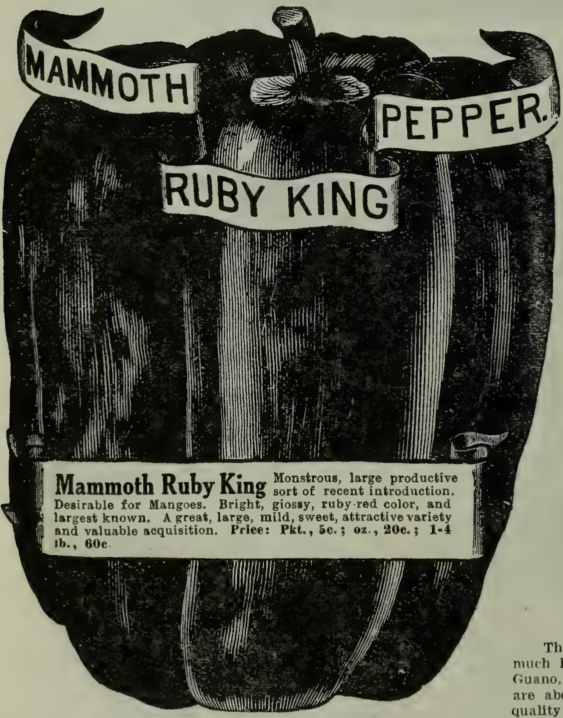
BIG ONIONS. For table use large onions are much preferable to small ones and they will also bring a better price on the market. The five varieties listed on the preceding page are of immense size, splendid quality and yield wonderfully large crops. While they do not keep quite as well as some other kinds, still they are usually good till January or February.

OKRA OR GUMBO

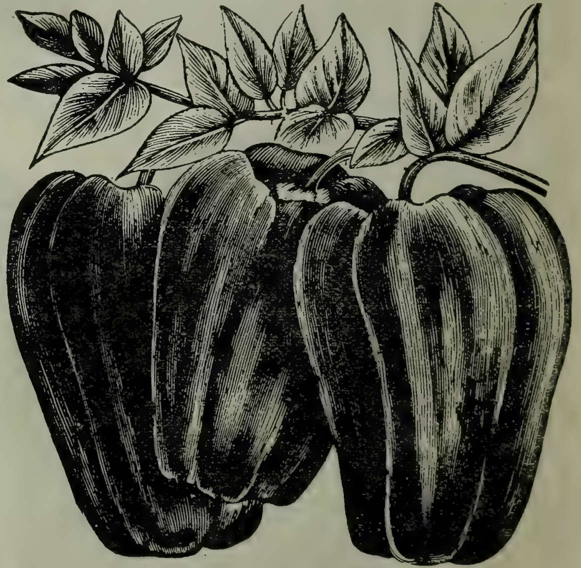
In high esteem for soups and stews. A fashionable Southern vegetable of easy growth at the North. An annual. The pods are used when young and tender.
CULTURE. Sow in May and June, after the ground is warm, in drills three feet apart, and thin to 10 inches apart in the rows. An ounce of seed to 100 feet of row.

PERKIN'S IMPROVED GIANT GREEN POD.

A new Okra esteemed by canners and market gardeners. It is a great improvement on the old green podded sorts. Large, handsome green pods. Fine quality, very productive, four to five feet tall. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**



Mammoth Ruby King Monstrous, large productive sort of recent introduction. Desirable for Mangoes. Bright, glossy, ruby-red color, and largest known. A great, large, mild, sweet, attractive variety and valuable acquisition. **Price: Pkt., 5c.; oz., 20c.; 1-4 lb., 60c.**


LARGE BELL OR BULL NOSE PEPPER.

PEPPERS.

One ounce will produce about 1,800 plants.

The culture of Pepper is the same as for Egg Plant; the plants need quite as much heat to perfect them, though they mature sooner and may be sown a little later. Guano, hen dung, or any other bird manure, hoed into the surface soil when the plants are about 6 inches high, will wonderfully increase the product and also improve the quality of the fruit.

SWEET MOUNTAIN. Plants very productive, growing upright, with moderately large leaves. Fruit very large, long, often 8 inches or more in length by 2 in diameter, very smooth and handsome, being, when unripe, of a bright, deep green color, entirely free from any purple tinge, and when matured of a rich red. Flesh very thick, sweet and mild flavored. Well suited to use as a stuffed pickle. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c.**

LARGE BELL OR BULL NOSE. Our stock of this well-known variety, which is sometimes called Sweet Mountain, is a great improvement on the best stock obtainable only a few years ago. Plant vigorous, compact, very productive, ripening its crop uniformly and early. It is one of the most popular and desirable sorts. Fruit large, cylindrical, with thick, mild flesh; quality for use in salads and pickles, color bright red when ripe. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c.**

CHINESE GIANT. Double the size of Ruby King of thick, blocky form, brilliant scarlet color, ripens comparatively early for so large a variety and is productive. **PRICE: Per pkt., 10c; oz., 50c; ¼ lb., $1.50.**

RED CAYENNE. PRICE: Per pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 90c.

CORAL GEM BOUQUET. This new red hot pepper is the finest of the smallest sized varieties. Excellent for pepper sauce. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 50c.**

RED CHILI. Small, very hot. Used for pepper sauce. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c., ¼ lb., 60c.**

PEAS

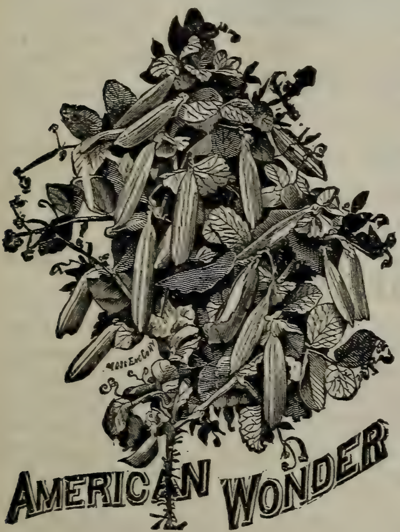
One Quart Will Plant About 100 Feet of Drill; 2 to 3 Bushels Per Acre

Peas mature quickest in light, dry soil, not too rich. May be sown as early as the ground can be worked, and for a succession every two weeks up to July, or what is better, select several kinds which will form a succession in maturing. Sow in drills 2 to 4 feet apart, according to varieties, and 2 or 3 inches deep for general crop, although the first earlies will come to maturity sooner if only covered 1½ inches. Wrinkled sorts are marked*. They should be sown thicker in the rows than the smooth varieties, as they are more liable to rot if the ground is wet.

Prices include postage. **Pints at one-half the quart rates. 15c per quart discount if sent by express. Packets contain about two ounces.**

ALASKA. Height two feet, pods rather small, dark green color, well filled, the earliest pea known, being two days earlier than the Rural New Yorker, and 70 per cent. of the pods can be gathered at the first picking. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 20c; qt., 50c. By express: ½ pk., $1.25; pk., $2.25.**

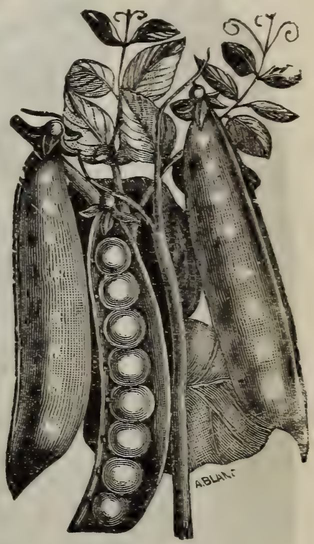
AMERICAN WONDER. The most popular extra-early variety for the family garden; being very sweet, it cannot be planted quite as early as the above, as it will not stand as much cold, wet weather, but is far superior to the extra early smooth sorts in flavor and table qualities and is quite productive. Of dwarf and robust habit, growing about 10 inches high, and produces a profusion of good sized, well filled pods, fairly packed with the finest flavored peas; on good soil each vine will average 12 pods and each pod six peas. The vines grow from 8 to 12 inches high. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 20c; qt., 50c. By express: ½ pk., $1.25; pk., $2.25.**



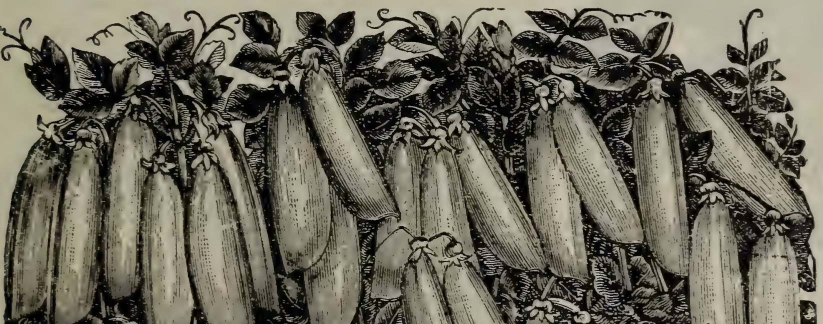
FIRST AND BEST. A standard first early variety, popular with gardeners in all parts of the country. This variety is perhaps more largely grown by market gardeners for first early than any other. Crop is very short this year. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 12c; qt., 40c. By express: ½ pk., 90c; pk., $1.65.**

***PREMIUM GEM.** Height one foot; early and prolific; a type of and an improvement on the McLean Little Gem; pods long and of dark green color. The most popular sort for family use. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 45c. By express: ½ pk., $1.10; pk., $2.00.**

IOWA CHALLENGE PEA. An extra early variety of superior merit which is a favorite with Shenandoah market gardeners. We can, in confidence, say that after a trial of nearly all extra early varieties offered to the trade we have not found one possessing more merit—hence its name. For the market gardener it has no superior. It is not only extremely early and prolific, but it is of good flavor. All the good qualities of the Extra Early are most nearly brought to perfection in the Challenge. Vines 18 inches. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 12c; qt., 40c. By express: ½ pk., 90c; pk., $1.50.**



IOWA CHALLENGE PEA.



NOTT'S EXCELSIOR.

M'LEAN'S LITTLE GEM. An early dwarf, green wrinkled variety, growing about 15 inches high. When green it is very large, sweet and of delicious flavor. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pt., 30c; qt., 50c.**

***NOTT'S EXCELSIOR.** A superb new variety, and we are sure our customers will welcome it as an ideal family and market pea. It is fully as sweet and delicious as the American Wonder, and grows one-half taller. Pods are larger and it is far more productive than the Premium Gem, and it is within a day or two as early as the first early smooth pea. The peas are ready for table use within 43 days from planting. Quality very superior. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 55c. By express: ½ pk., $1.25; pk., $2.25.**

***EVERBEARING.** Height 2 feet; late to very late; hardy, vigorous, enormous cropper, pods and peas of large size and good quality. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 45c. By express: ½ pk., 75c; pk., $1.25.**

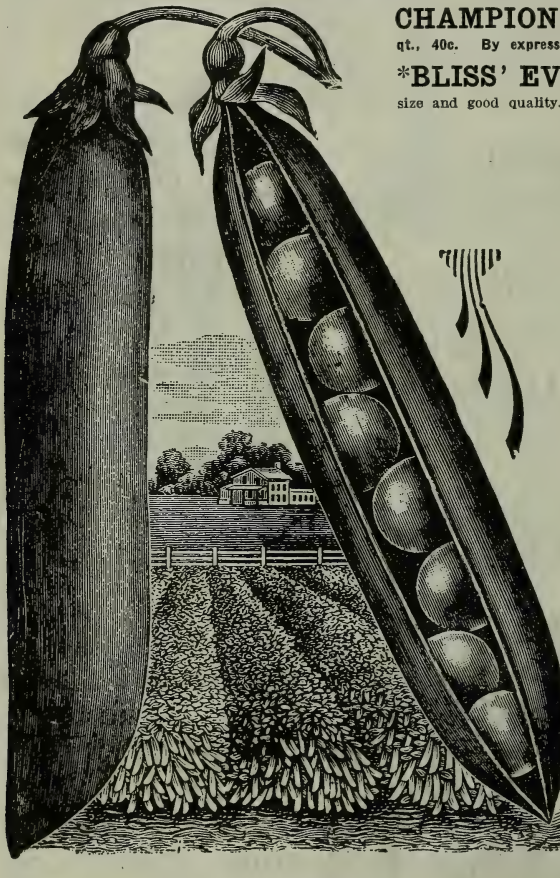
PEAS—Continued

***GRADUS OR PROSPERITY.** One of the finest peas for family use. This remarkable pea is not only large and of the best quality, but it is nearly or quite as early as the small round, extra early sorts. **Gradus** is a wrinkled pea with a vine growing about 30 inches high. The pods are of a bright green color, and measure four inches or more in length, as large as Telephone, and equally well filled with luscious Peas—8 to 10 or more in a pod. The peas are of the highest table quality and retain in a remarkable manner their color and attractive appearance after cooking. It is a grand pea in all respects. **Pkt., 10c; ½ pt., 20c; qt., 55c. By express: ½ pk., $1.50; pk., $2.50.**

***TELEPHONE.** Immensely productive, of the finest quality and excellent sugary flavor; vines very strong, the pods are of large size, with six or seven large, delicious peas; height 4 feet. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 50c. By express: ½ pk., 90c; pk., $1.50.**

MAMMOTH LUSCIOUS SUGAR. This new sugar pea bears pods much larger than any other variety, often six or seven inches long and an inch and one-half broad. They should not be shelled, but the peas and pods eaten together, as they contain so much sugar, starch and gluten; are very nutritious for family use. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 20c; qt., 60c. By express: ½ pk., $1.25; pk., $2.25.**

IMPROVED STRATAGEM. Late variety for family or market use. Half-dwarf, vigorous, branching habit, and under favorable conditions an enormous cropper. Pods long and filled with seven to nine large peas of extra fine quality. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 50c. By express: ½ pk., 85c; pk., $1.50.**



IMPROVED STRATAGEM.

CHAMPION OF ENGLAND. One of the richest, best flavored peas grown. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 40c. By express: ½ pk., 65c; pk., $1.15.**

***BLISS' EVERBEARING.** Height two feet; late to very late, hardy, enormous cropper; pods and peas of large size and good quality. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; pt., 20c; qt., 35c; pk., $1.50.**

***YORKSHIRE HERO.** **(Big Gem.)** Height, one and one-half feet. Seeds large, yellowish green, wrinkled. Quality fine. **PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; qt., 40c. By express or freight: Qt., 25c; ½ pk., 75c; pk., $1.25.**

TOM THUMB. This variety was introduced thirty years ago. Fine bushy, growing to a height of ten inches; foliage heavy; productive; matures in thirty-five days after sprouting. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 40c.**

MARROWFAT. Is grown largely by gardeners and also sown as a field pea for stock. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 10c; qt., 35c. By express, ½ pk., 60c; pk., $1.00.**

FIELD PEAS. See list of Miscellaneous Field Seeds.

PRICES AS GIVEN ARE POSTPAID. IF ORDERED BY FREIGHT OR EXPRESS, AT SENDER'S EXPENSE, DEDUCT 7c PER PINT, 15c PER QUART, FROM PRICES GIVEN.

I have been very much pleased with the seeds I have bought of you the last three years. They have been satisfactory in every respect. We have been very successful with the Maule's Early Peas; our neighbors ask us "didn't you sweeten these peas?" Icicle Radish and Enormous Tomatoes are winners, as well as good quality. Your Danish Ball Head Cabbage beat them all in quality.—Ben F. Plummer, Forest City, Mo.

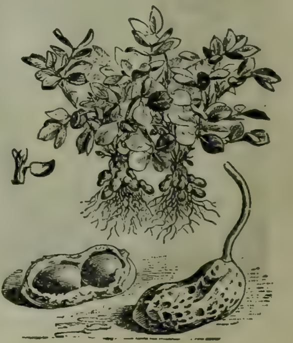
Your Prizetaker Onion is extra fine; from $3.00 worth of seed I have 150 bushels of good saleable onions; everyone who has seen my onion patch says it is the best they ever saw; they are excellent keepers.—O. M. Wood, Council Hill, Ind. Ter.

I sent for five ounces of your onion seed, two each of Red Globe and Prizetaker, and one of Mammoth Silver King. The Silver King, as they came in early, I bunched and sold at five cents a bunch; when they were gone I sold Prizetaker until they were ripe, when I pulled 24 bushels of fine onions. The Prizetakers were the larger of the two varieties. Old settlers tell me they are the largest onions they have ever seen grown here. I received for the ripe onions $1.00 per bushel, and after keeping 2½ bushels for my own use, I have sold in all, bunched and ripe, $36.35 worth, and can say I am well pleased with my onion seed and with all other seeds ordered from you. I will send you my order for 1907.—Mrs. Laura Sheada, Arcadia, Kan.

The onions came in to-day; we pronounce them "very fine;" in fact, we have never seen a finer specimen of this particular variety, the Yellow Globe Danvers. You ought to find the growing of such onions in quantities very profitable. Unless you wish them returned, we will keep them and preserve them in our museum, as an illustration of what Louisiana is capable of producing in this line.—E. J. Watson, Horticulturist, North Louisiana Experiment Station, Calhoun, La.

Improved Ground Pea or Peanut

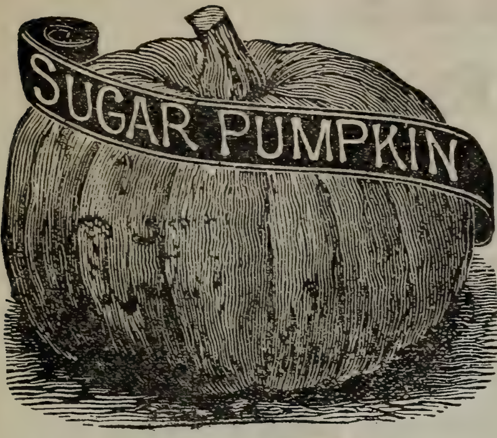
Peanuts can be grown anywhere and every one should plant them for themselves and children.



RED CROSS. This very desirable variety is as early as the earliest, the most hardy, very prolific and of the best quality. Boys, here is a chance for you. Think of growing peanuts in your own garden and have plenty of them to eat. Shell the nuts carefully so as not to break the inside skin, and plant as soon as the ground becomes warm, from two to three feet apart each way, four or five to the hill, covering two inches. The soil should be deep and mellow. They produce 25 to 70 bushels per acre and are as easily cultivated as corn. **PRICE: Large package, 10c; lb., 40c. By express: 5 lbs., or more, 25c per lb.**

SPANISH. A very early variety, but the pods are small. **PRICE: Package, 10c; lb., 50c.**

SWEET PEAS. While you are ordering peas for the vegetable garden, don't forget the beautiful Sweet Peas. We have something to say along this line that will certainly interest you.



PUMPKIN

One Ounce Will Plant Twenty-Five Hills. Four Pounds Will Plant One Acre

Pumpkins are not so particular in regard to soil as melons, or cucumbers, but in other respects are cultivated the same, though on a larger scale. They are generally raised between hills of corn, but may be planted with success in fields by themselves.

Pumpkins are sold in the markets in large quantities every fall and are considered a very profitable crop. They are also valuable for feeding to stock.

Include a few pounds in your order. Planted with corn two pounds will plant one acre.

SWEET OR SUGAR. Fruit small and round. A very prolific variety and superior for pies and table use. The skin is deep orange yellow; an excellent keeper. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

A PRIZE OF $10.00 will be paid for the largest pumpkin grown from our seed this year, the report to be sent in not later than October 15.

RATEKIN'S MAMMOTH PRIZE. (Sold only in sealed packages.) The largest pumpkin grown. Has weighed as high as 225 lbs. A prize winner. The flesh is fine grained and the quality is excellent. The flesh and skin are of bright golden yellow color. Notwithstanding its large size it is a fine variety for pies and is a splendid keeper. If you wish to see just how large a pumpkin you can grow, try this variety. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., $1.60.**

JAPANESE PIE. A crook neck variety. Early. Seeds are marked very curiously. Flesh deep yellow; of fine quality. Keeps well. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., 95c.**

EARLY SUGAR OR PIE. Small, round, flattened, prolific, deep orange yellow. Flesh fine grained, sweet and of the finest quality. A good keeper. One of the best for pies. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

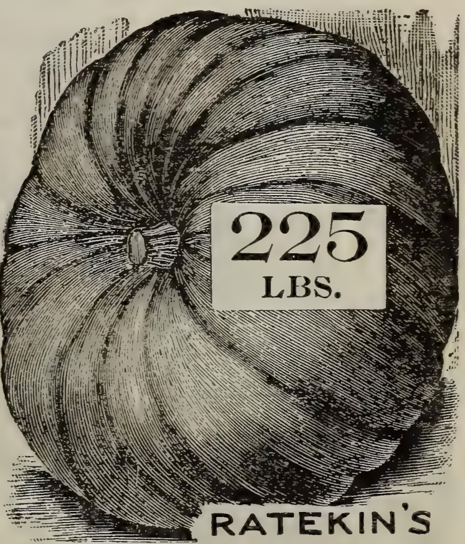
"SOME PUMPKINS."

Grantsburg, Wisconsin, October 5, 1910.

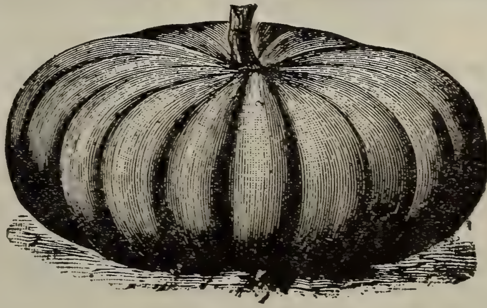
"We ordered our seeds from you last spring and found them all O. K. They made good crops. You offered a Prize Premium of $10.00 to the customer that grew the largest **RATEKIN'S MAMMOTH PRIZE PUMPKIN** from seed obtained from you. I have grown one of these pumpkins that **WEIGHS TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE POUNDS**, and think, if weather had not been so dry, it would have grown to weigh 300 pounds. If I grew the largest and heaviest I am entitled to the Premium, and you will please send me the $10.00. Yours truly, Wm. Vollrath."

CONNECTICUT FIELD. The common field or cow pumpkin. If you have any live stock to feed, it will pay you to put in a few acres of these. **PRICE: Oz., 5c; ¼ lb., 10c; lb., by mail, 35c. By express or freight: 10 lbs., $1.75; bu. of 25 lbs., $3.00.**

WE WANT EVERY ONE OF OUR FARMER FRIENDS, AND THAT MEANS ALL WHO RECEIVE THIS BOOK, TO PLANT SOME OF OUR PUMPKINS THIS YEAR.



LARGE CHEESE—KENTUCKY FIELD.



LARGE CHEESE PUMPKIN.

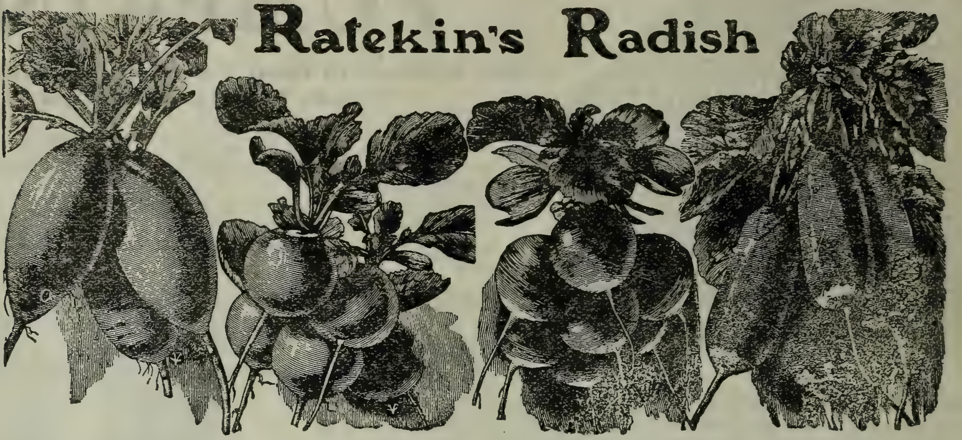
Large, round, flattened fruits, with creamy buff skin. It is an excellent keeping variety, with thick flesh of exceptionally fine quality. Commonly called sweet pumpkin throughout the West. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.**

YANKEE PIE PUMPKIN

YANKEE PIE. This is the noted New England Pie or Small Sugar Pumpkin. Same shape and color as the "Connecticut Field," but smaller, very sweet, fine grained and one of the best varieties for table use. We have sold this to thousands of customers in all parts of the country and it pleases everyone for making pies. Early and very productive. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

MAMMOTH TOURS. Also called **"Mammoth Whale."** Originated near Tours, France, where it is largely grown, both for feeding cattle and table use. Grows to an immense size, sometimes 3 feet in length, and to a weight of 100 to 200 lbs. Flesh of salmon color. Seed of a peculiar shape. **Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., $1.40.**

RADISHES



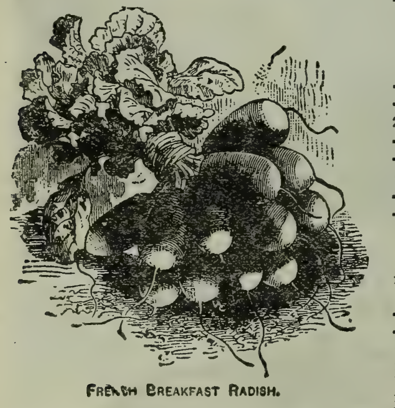
One ounce for 100 feet of drill; eight to ten pounds for an acre.

Radish seed should be sown in light, rich soil as early as the ground can be worked, and for a succession, at intervals of two weeks until midsummer. Radishes must be grown quickly and have plenty of room or they will invariably be tough and pithy. Sow in drills one foot apart and thin to two or three inches apart as soon as the rough leaves appear. Most of our radish seed was grown for us in France, "the natural home of radishes," and we think it cannot be surpassed.

EARLY SCARLET TURNIP. One of the handsomest of the turnip radishes and a great favorite in many large markets for early planting outdoors. It is but little later than the **"White Tipped Forcing"** and will give entire satisfaction where extreme earliness is not the primary object. Roots slightly flattened on the under side; color very deep scarlet with a white tip; flesh white and of the best quality. **Pkt., 5c; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 50c.**

EARLY LONG SCARLET SHORT TOP. An old standard variety of quick growth, with long, slender roots. Radishes are ready for market about 25 or 30 days after planting seed; flesh crisp and mild. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

ROSY GEM. An improvement on the **"Scarlet Turnip, White Tip."** Their shape is perfectly globular, with rich, deep scarlet top, blending into pure white at the bottom, exceedingly tender, crisp, delicious, equally desirable for either the market or home garden. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**



FRENCH BREAKFAST RADISH.

WHITE STRASBURG. Of handsome, oblong, tapering shape, both skin and flesh are pure white. The flesh is firm, brittle and tender, and possesses the most desirable character of retaining crispness even when old and large. Excellent for summer use and withstands severe heat and grows very quickly **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

EARLY FRAME. Smaller and about ten days earlier than **"Long Scarlet,"** which it very much resembles. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

FRENCH BREAKFAST. A small, handsome variety of very quick growth; one-half-inch in diameter and two inches long. Color bright carmine with clear white in lower portion. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

NON PLUS ULTRA. An improvement on the **"Deep Scarlet Turnip."** Remarkably fine in quality, of very quick growth, and **ready to pull within 20 days after sowing.** Perfectly globular little roots of very bright color and excellent shape; certain to insure ready sale on the market. It is one of the best strains of early radishes for forcing. Beds are planted, the crop matured and sold and the bed made ready for a second planting, all in 30 days. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

IMPROVED CHARTIER. Is decidedly distinct in appearance from any radish in cultivation. Its form is well defined by our engraving, the color at the top being crimson running into pink about the middle, and from thence downward is a pure waxy white. **PRICE: Same as Early Scarlet Turnip.**

ICICLE. A new early white radish. This magnificent novelty received its name from the almost transparent whiteness of the root. Although a long radish of good size, it vies in earliness with the first forcing sorts. It will produce a radish 3½ to 4 inches long in 22 days from sowing the seed. The leaves are short, admitting of close planting in the hotbeds. The flesh is very white, crisp and brittle as glass, and of fine mild flavor. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 85c.**

WHITE LADY FINGER. An improvement on **"White Naples,"** or **"Vienna."** Large, white, crisp variety about as long as **"Long Scarlet,"** and similar in shape. A very desirable sort. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

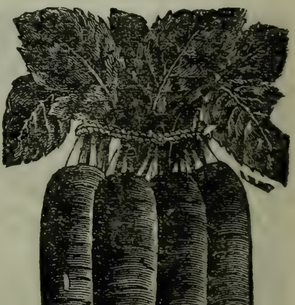
SCARLET TURNIP, WHITE TIP. Handsome bright scarlet, white tip. Many gardeners make sowing of it every two weeks during summer, its fine appearance attracts customers; quality always pleases. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

CINCINNATI MARKET. An excellent long radish of glossy brilliant scarlet color, having small top. The best long red radish for forcing. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

EARLY SCARLET OLIVE. A very useful variety. Matures in 25 days, color bright scarlet, flesh crisp and tender. Best adapted for main crop. **PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 50c.**

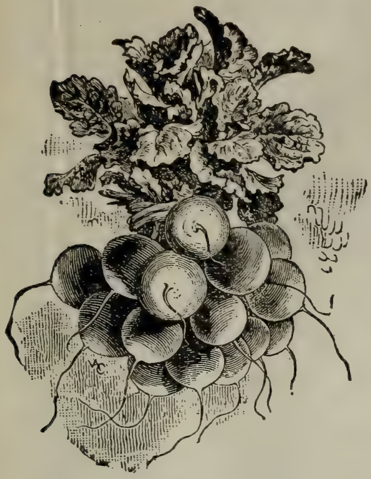
I consider your garden seeds the best I ever planted, and I am 79 years old, and have planted a great many gardens. Your National Watermelon is fine, also Icicle Radish, Tomatoes, and, in fact, everything I bought of you.—Mrs. Ellen Anderson, Carlton, Kan.

Your seeds have all been entirely satisfactory. I never raised finer onions than from your seed. Chinese Giant Peppers are magnificent, and Earliest of All Tomatoes are the earliest I have ever grown. Luscious Sugar Pea can't be beat.—Mrs. E. Krone, Elk City, Kan.



IMPROVED CHARTIER.

WINTER RADISHES



SCARLET TURNIP WHITE TIPPED.

BLACK SPANISH. A late and hardy variety of large size. Skin a very dark brown or black. Keeps well during the winter. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

ROSE CHINA WINTER. Of excellent quality and a good keeper. Skin a bright rose color, flesh very crisp and brittle. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

RATEKIN'S RADISH MIXTURE. A superb mixture of all kinds of radishes, early, medium, fall, winter, Chinese, etc. Sow a row of it and it will furnish you delicious radishes throughout the year. The early and medium ones, as they mature and are pulled, make room for the larger growth of the fall and winter varieties. This mixture is made up of twelve best varieties, and with it it is necessary to make but one sowing for the entire year. You will be surprised and delighted with our popular radish mixture. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

LONG WHITE. A late and hardy variety of large size. Skin very dark brown or black. Keeps well during the winter. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

CALIFORNIA MAMMOTH WHITE. Pure white about one foot long and two or three inches through, tapering regularly to the tip. The flesh is tender and crisp, keeping well through the winter. **PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

Gentlemen:—In regard to the Iowa Silver Mine Seed Corn I purchased from you, will say I am well pleased with it, and regardless of the unfavorable season we have had, my corn planted from your seed will make five bushels more per acre than native corn.—S. P. Hudson, Rush County, Missouri.

I have been using your seeds for the past eight years, and cannot praise them too highly. Your Enormous and Success Tomatoes are the best I ever raised. I sent a crate of Success Tomatoes to the Fair at St. Louis, and got the premium.—H. H. Warmath, Humboldt, Tennessee.

RADISHES.

OUR LIST CONTAINS ALL THE VERY BEST RADISHES IN CULTIVATION, AND PRICES ARE BY MAIL, POSTPAID. ALL OUR RADISH SEED IS THE BEST FRENCH GROWN AND CAN BE RELIED UPON AS BEING THE BEST IN THE MARKET.

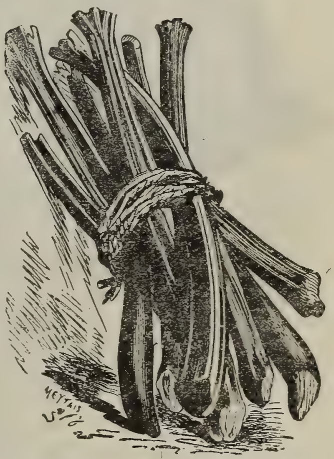
New Ideal Mammoth Rhubarb

The Rhubarb (or pie plant) is a vegetable which it is difficult to improve and it takes many years to fully establish a new variety. About twenty-five years ago Dr. Kennicott, of Illinois, in growing roots from seed, found one which was so far superior to, and different from all others, that he saved it carefully, and the root has been divided and propagated from year to year until finally we purchased the stock. Like all other highly improved sorts it seeds sparingly and comes more nearly true to name when grown from seed than most other sorts. The stalks are as large, if not larger than the Victoria, and are produced in much greater abundance. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; strong roots, 20c each; dozen, $2.00.**

The seeds were the best. At our County Fair we took first prize for our tomatoes, and might have taken prizes on other things if we had brought them. Your Earliest of All Tomatoes are a wonder, they bear so heavy and are so large and sound; nothing like them ever seen here before.—Geo. Jacob, Evert, Mich.

NOT A FAILURE. All your seeds give the highest satisfaction. I do not know of one failure.—Henry Denison, Fargo, N. D.

I have bought my garden seeds from you for the past 15 years and have always found them just as represented—true to name and of the very best germination. Your seeds grow. If everybody sold as good seeds as you do there would be no room for complaint by anyone.—Truly yours, John Tenyon, St. Charles, Mo.



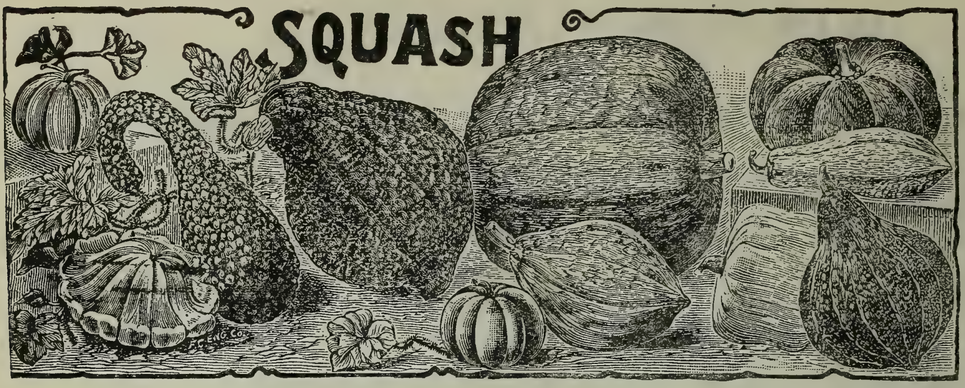
RHUBARB

If there are any seeds you want, it matters not how large or small your order may be, that is not listed in this catalog, write us; also send full list of your wants and requirements and we will give you lowest net prices. Always address: RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE, SHENANDOAH, IOWA.

RATEKIN'S SEEDS ARE THE BEST.

Ratekin's Seeds Are the Best Ever

Mr. Ratekin:—I have bought my seeds from your house for the past twenty years, and I am free to say I have never bought a packet of seed from you that did not grow. In addition to this the beauty and satisfaction of it is, I have always found the seeds fresh and new. In short, they grow, and have always proven true to name. When I get my seeds from you I know what to depend upon. Your Northern grown seeds are not only superior to **SOUTHERN TRUCK GROWERS' SEEDS,** but they are a month earlier and I have garden vegetables a month sooner than any of my neighbors who plant old, worn-out varieties. I expect to engage in the truck growing business this year and enclose you a list of seeds wanted. It will probably amount to $60.00 to $75.00. Figure it closely and make me your best wholesale prices to truck growers. Wishing you the continued success you are so justly entitled to, I remain, sincerely yours, John J. Russell, Vicksburg, Miss.

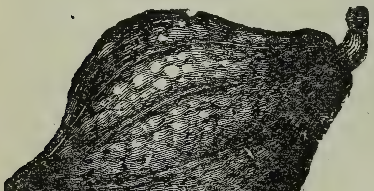


The squash is one of the most nutritious and valuable of all our garden vegetables. Few farmers appreciate the value of winter squash as food for stock. We think an acre of squash costing no more to cultivate and much less to secure will give as much food available for feeding stock as an acre of corn, and we strongly urge our readers to try a "patch" for this purpose. One ounce early varieties will plant about 40 hills; one oz. late varieties will plant about 20 hills; 3 to 4 lbs. to the acre.

EARLY BUSH CROOKNECK. Splendid summer sort, early, productive, very fine quality. With all the new varieties recently brought out, many claim that there is no summer squash superior to this. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

WHITE BUSH SCALLOPED. Similar to the Golden Bush; color creamy white; an excellent variety for the family garden for early use. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.**

TRUE HUBBARD. This old variety has for years stood the test of all rivals, and is the most popular winter squash grown; hard, green shell; flesh bright orange yellow, fine grained, very dry, sweet and of rich flavor; keeps in perfect condition throughout the winter. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 35c; lb., $1.25.**



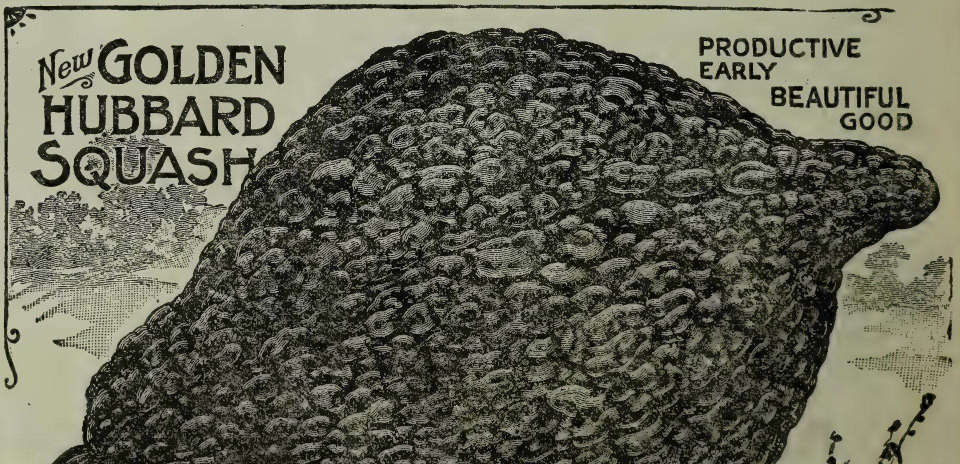
WARTY HUBBARD.

WARTY HUBBARD. A new strain of the Hubbard. The wartiness indicates a very hard shell, which is one of the best features of long-keeping squash. It also denotes extra choice quality—the harder and more warty the shell of a Hubbard, the more delicate and sweet the flesh. The flesh, however, is not so thick as the above. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 90c.**

BLUE HUBBARD OR MARBLEHEAD. A splendid winter variety. Shell very hard, light blue color; flesh similar to the Hubbard in quality. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., $1.00.**

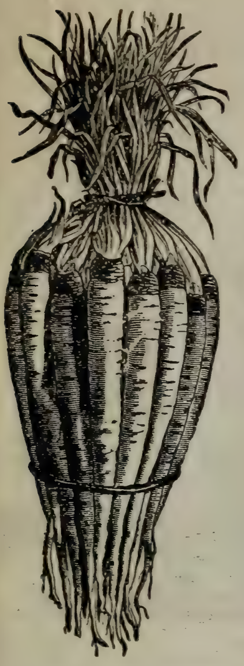
PERFECT GEM. Is a strong grower, as many as 24 squashes having been produced on a single vine. The squashes are from four to six inches in diameter; of a creamy white, with thin, smooth shell, slightly ribbed. The flesh, when cooked, is dry, sweet and rich in flavor. It is a splendid keeper. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 85c.**

SIBLEY OR PIKE'S PEAK. We consider this one of the very best winter varieties. It has the reputation of being the only variety surpassing the Hubbard in quality. Has large oval fruit tapering at the blossom end. Shell hard, dark olive green color, flesh light orange color of the very best quality. Vines of strong growth and very productive. Seed has been very scarce for several years past, but we have a good supply. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., $1.00.**



NEW GOLDEN HUBBARD SQUASH—Productive, Early, Beautiful, Good. This is a True Hubbard Squash, except in color, which is bright golden. The vine is a vigorous but not a rampant grower and wonderfully productive, expending the energy derived from liberal fertilizing in the production of an increased number rather than of overgrown and coarse fruits, as some varieties are apt to do. It ripens its crop very early and uniformly, thus making it a certain cropper. The fruits are very uniform in size, weighing from six to eight lbs., and in shape are like the Hubbard. Though maturing early they are wonderfully long keepers, so they can be held over in good condition for spring use. The shell is warty, hard and strong and a very beautiful orange-red color, except for a bit of olive green on the blossom end. The flesh is a deep orange and uniformly so to the rind, never having the green tinge so objectionable in other sorts. It cooks very dry, fine grained and good flavored. We believe this is the best fall and winter sort yet introduced, and that it deserves to and will become a most popular variety. It certainly has no superior as a table squash. Send to **RATEKIN'S** for the best seed. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 85c.**

There is no vegetable you will appreciate more than our early squashes. Try them.



MAMMOTH SANDWICH ISLAND.

SALSIFY

OR VEGETABLE OYSTER

One ounce will sow about 80 feet of drill; 10 lbs. to the acre.

Why don't you sow salsify? We are certain if you grow it one year you would never be without it. It is one of the most delicious and nutritious of vegetables, and should be more generally cultivated for use in winter, when the supply of really good vegetables is so limited. It has the true oyster flavor, and makes a delicious and unexpensive substitute for them in soup. Cultivate like parsnips.

MAMMOTH SANDWICH ISLAND. Average fully double the size of the old Long White. Roots are white, smooth and, notwithstanding their enormous size, are of superior quality. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., $1.20.**

WISCONSIN GOLDEN. A distinct and valuable new sort. The roots are large, smooth and have a decided yellow cast which gives it its name. They cut smooth and even throughout, unusually brittle and never stringy. When prepared for the table they are very rich, tender and delicious in flavor. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., $1.60.**

SPINACH

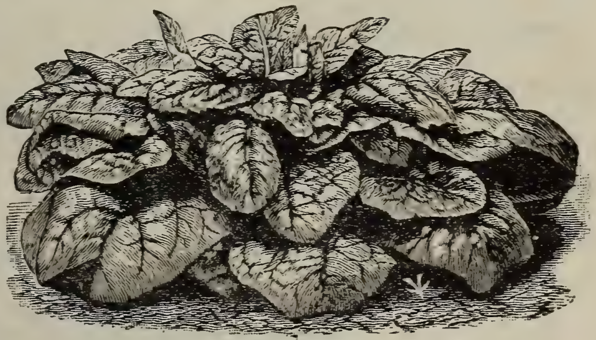
One ounce will sow 50 feet of drill; eight pounds to the acre.

The finest "greens" of any plant in cultivation. For summer sow early in spring in deep, rich soil, in drills one foot apart; cover one inch; sow at intervals of two weeks throughout the season. For very early spring use, sow the first of September; protect by covering with straw.

VICTORIA. This new variety is distinguished for its exceedingly dark black-green color, and also for its very long standing qualities, being from two to three weeks later than the ordinary varieties. The leaves are thick and spread out flat upon the ground. It is excellent for spring sowing, but not sufficiently hardy to withstand the winter in this locality. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 35c. By express: 5 lbs. or more at 25c.**

BLOOMSDALE. A Savoy-leaved curled variety. Very highly valued; especially in the South. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 40c.**

NEW ZEALAND. Very useful to supply the place of the ordinary spinach during the very hottest months of the year, or in dry, arid localities. A few plants will supply a family with this delicious vegetable from July to October. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., $1.00.**

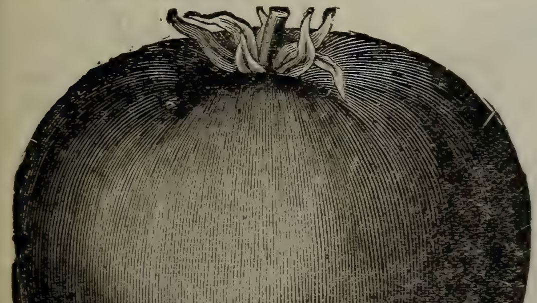


VICTORIA SPINACH.

TOMATOES

One ounce will produce about 2,500 plants.

Sow early in hotbeds or seed boxes and when plants have four leaves transplant to four or five inches apart. Give plenty of air and endeavor to secure a vigorous growth. When all danger of frost is past transplant to the open ground, four to six feet apart each way. Well manured, light, sandy soil is best, but it must be remembered that a surplus of manure stimulates leaf growth to the detriment of the fruit. Through long years of selection we have now a stock of tomato seed which is far superior to that of most other dealers. Our packets contain from 500 to 1,000 seeds.



RATEKIN'S EARLIEST TOMATO.

RATEKIN'S EARLIEST TOMATO. Unquestionably the earliest of all. If you sow **"Ratekin's Earliest,"** you will have, with favorable weather, fine tomatoes in ninety days from sowing the seed. It is an excellent shipper, being exempt from rot or cracking, ripens all over at once, and is a wonderfully smooth tomato—none smoother. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., $2.50.**

FAVORITE. Medium-size fruit of rich, dark red color. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., $1.65.**

ACME. A popular early variety, with smooth, round, purple fruits, of medium size. Ripen a large number early in the season. Fruits are rather soft and liable to crack. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., $1.75.**

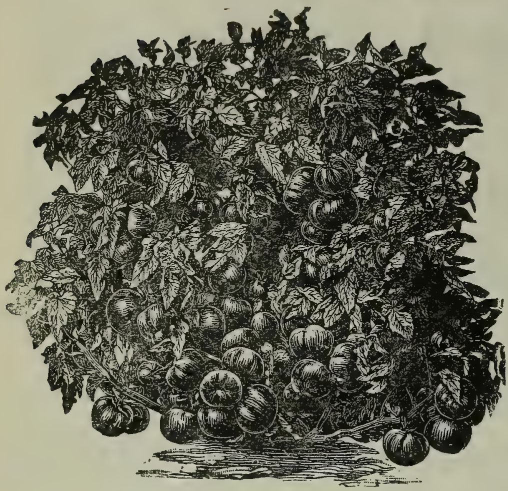
IMPROVED TROPHY. First of modern improved kinds. Our **"Improved Trophy"** is a sort whose vigorous and productive, large, solid, smooth, fine flavored, beautiful fruit will satisfy the most exacting. Much liked for canning as well as fresh. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., $1.75.**

SPARKS' EARLIANA. **The Earliest Large Tomato in the World.** Probably no early tomato introduced in many years has attracted so much attention and has so large a sale as Sparks' Earliana. Early tomatoes are invariably small in size. This valuable new variety, originated by George C. Sparks, of New Jersey, is not only extremely early, but is remarkable for its large size, handsome shape and beautiful red color. Its solidity and fine qualities are fully equal to many of the best late sorts. Extra early tomatoes are one of the most profitable crops for the market gardener. You will make no mistake by planting Sparks' Earliana. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; ½ oz., 30c; oz., 50c.**

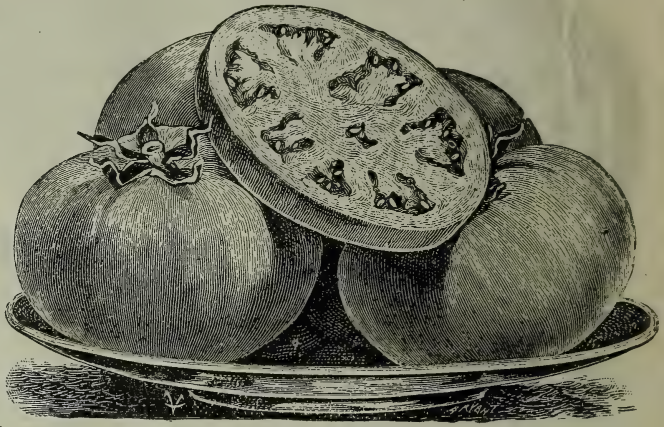
PONDEROSA. This is the largest-fruited tomato and of fine quality for slicing. Vines are of strong, rather open growth; fruit oblong in form, deep through, and generally ribbed; deep purple in color. Solidly fleshy, with small seed cells; of sweet flavor. In good soil fruits frequently attain a weight of one pound and over; late to ripen. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., $1.00; lb., $3.00.**

TOMATOES—Continued

EXTRA EARLY ADVANCE. Unquestionably the earliest of all. If you sow "Advance" you will have, with favorable weather, fine tomatoes in ninety days from sowing the seed. It is an excellent shipper, being exempt from rot or cracking, ripens all over at once and is a wonderfully smooth tomato; none smoother. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., $1.65.**



DWARF CHAMPION TOMATO.



EARLY ADVANCE TOMATO.

DWARF CHAMPION. Its habits of growth are peculiar, for not only is it dwarf and compact, but the stem being thick, stiff and short-jointed, it is almost self supporting when laden with fruit. In productiveness it is unsurpassed. It is also very early; the fruit is of a purplish pink color, always smooth and symmetrical and the flesh solid and of fine quality. Can almost be called a tree tomato. The best variety to grow for plants for sale, as they are so stocky. Seed is very scarce this year. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., $2.50.**

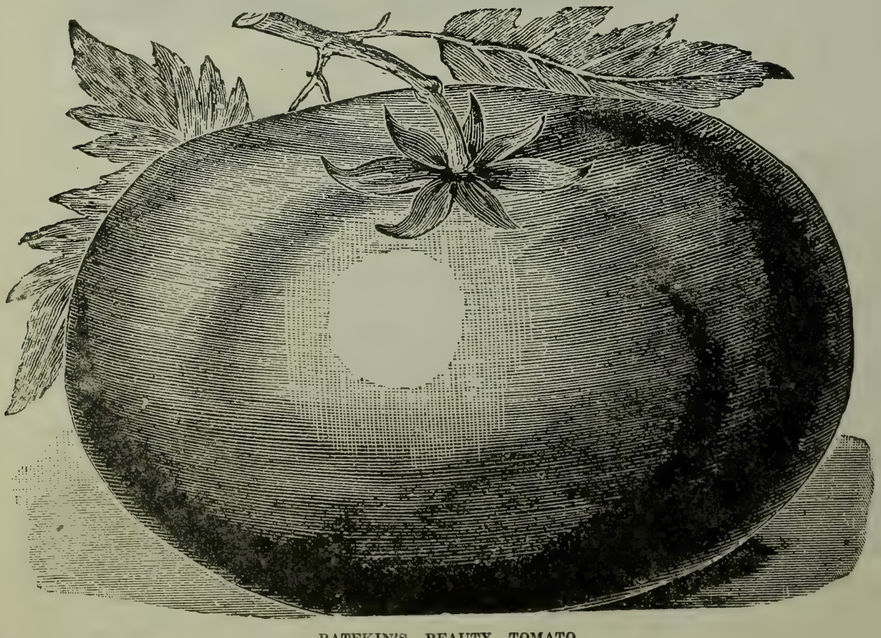
RATEKIN'S BEAUTY TOMATO. Its size, beauty, shape, color, flavor, durability and productiveness make it desirable to all classes of tomato growers; glossy crimson with slight tinge of purple. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., $2.25.**

GOLDEN QUEEN. The superior flavor of the yellow varieties is bringing them into favor as table fruit, and those who think of a yellow tomato as the rough fruit of the old yellow sorts will be surprised at this smooth, beautiful fruit, as smooth as the best of red varieties, and of a fine and distinct flavor. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., $2.50.**

PERFECTION. Solid flesh, always smooth, and of blood-red color. This is a general favorite, equally desirable for the home garden, for shipping and for canning. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., $1.75.**

MIXED TOMATOES. For the advantage of some of our customers who would like to try all kinds, we have prepared this mixture of the varieties named and several others which we think will please all. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 30c; ¼ lb., 85c.**

MATCHLESS. Well worthy of its name, for in beauty of color and symmetry of form it is indeed without a peer. The vines are of strong, vigorous growth, well set with fruit; are entirely free from core, of the finest flavor, of a very rich cardinal red color and not liable to crack from wet weather; of largest size and the size of the fruit is maintained throughout the season. Solid, a fine quality, and keeps well. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., $2.50.**



RATEKIN'S BEAUTY TOMATO.

YELLOW PLUM or PEAR

For pickling and preserves. Fruit uniformly oval, lemon colored and smooth skinned. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., $2.25.**

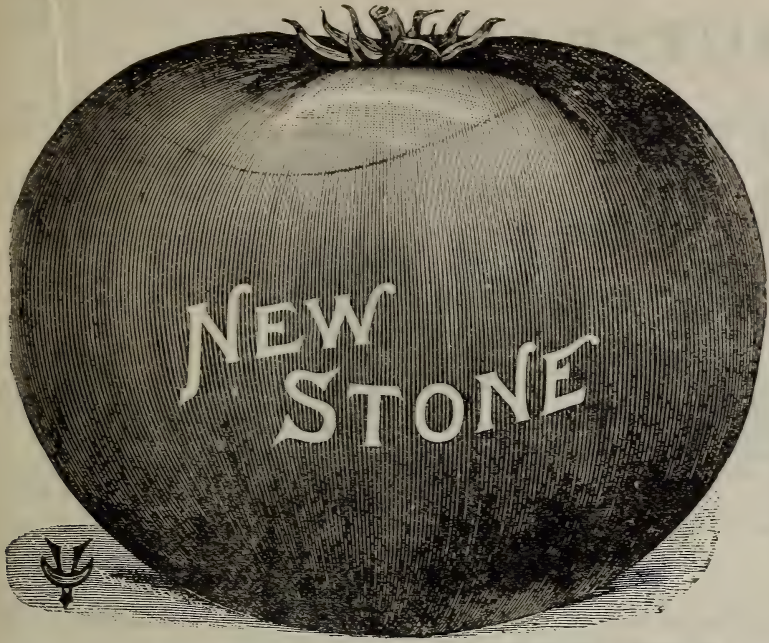
For 25 Cents

We will send postpaid seven packets of any variety of our tomatoes you may select, value 40 cents, for 25 cents.

Harrison Co., Iowa.
Sept. 12.

Dear Sirs:—I purchased both Pride of Nishna and Iowa Silver Mine Seed Corn from you last spring; planted between showers from May 8th to 23rd; gave good cultivation, and yield promises 60 bushels per acre, and is safely out of the way of frost now. Very truly,

C. W. Huff.



TOMATOES

Continued

NEW STONE. This is the heaviest and most solid fruited of the large tomatoes of good quality. Our stock is distinctly superior to most of that offered under this name, being more uniform, better colored and larger. Vines vigorous and productive. Fruit, round, apple shaped, very large, very deep red in color and astonishingly heavy. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., $2.00.**

FOR 25 CENTS

we will send, postpaid, seven packets of any variety of our tomatoes you may select, value 40 cents, for 25 cents.

Increase Your Corn Crop.

Every farmer who strives to increase his corn crop has two ways to do it. He can increase the yield per acre or plant more acres. The farmer who wants more corn will do well to study the first method before he decides on the latter. Good Seed, and Change of Seed, is the first essential to a larger yield of better corn; therefore, plant Ratekin's Improved varieties and add 20 to 50 per cent. to your corn crop. Read what we say about corn on first thirty pages.

BOND'S EARLY MINNESOTA. This handsome new variety is, we believe, the earliest in existence. Vines vigorous, with rather small leaf. When quite small begin producing fruits which are of fair size, of good shape, smooth, dark, red color. They ripen evenly, remain solid a long time and never crack. Thos. H. Brinton, who grows about 100 varieties of tomatoes, has originated several of our best sorts, writes: "Bond's Early Minnesota is the best early tomato we have tried. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., $2.25.**

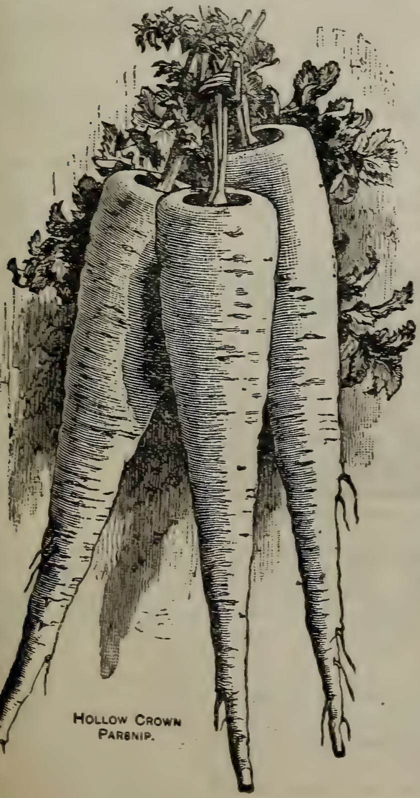
GOLDEN NUGGET. Described with novelties. **PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 50c.**

MAJESTIC. The largest and finest variety. **PRICE: Pkt. of 200 seeds, 15c.**

Your Success Tomatoes have no equal. I cannot say too much in their favor. The tomato stands the dry weather better than any variety I have ever planted.—E. J. Andrus, Opelousas, La.

I have used your seeds for several years, and would not do without them for double their cost. The Success Tomato is the finest for all kinds of use I have ever had in my garden. Everyone should plant Success. I know they would be pleased with this wonderful tomato—Sallie E. Walker. Peryear. Tenn.

I have a half acre of your grand Success Tomato and for fruit I have never seen its equal. I have planted four feet each way and they are one mass of fruit.—H. E. Howell, Nephi City, Utah.


HOLLOW CROWN PARSNIP.

PARSNIPS

One ounce will sow 200 feet of drill; 5 lbs. to an acre.

Sow early in spring in good rich soil, which has been plowed deep, in drills 15 inches apart, covering half an inch. Thin to 5 or 6 inches apart in rows. They are improved by frost.

LONG SUGAR OR HOLLOW CROWN. The old standard. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ½ lb., 25c; lb., 40c.**

IMPROVED OR TABLE GUERNSEY. A greatly improved and wonderfully fine strain of the Guernsey Hollow Crown Parsnip. The roots do not grow as long as the Hollow Crown, but are of greater diameter and more easily gathered. A very heavy cropper; the roots are smooth, with a deep hollow crown and a small top. The flesh is fine grained and sweet and of excellent quality; cooks evenly all the way through to the center, which is fine, soft and even quality as outside portions.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 65c.

PARSLEY

Sow in March, thinly in drills 1 foot apart and ½-inch deep. Soak seed in warm water a few hours before sowing. For winter use protect in a glass frame or light cellar. Very useful for flavoring soups and stews and for garnishing. The green leaves are used for flavoring, or they may be dried crisp, rubbed to a powder and kept in bottles until needed.

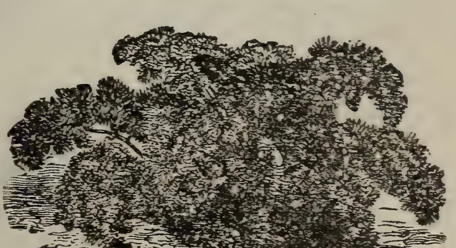
MOSS CURLED. Very select stock, most beautifully crimped and curled.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 80c.

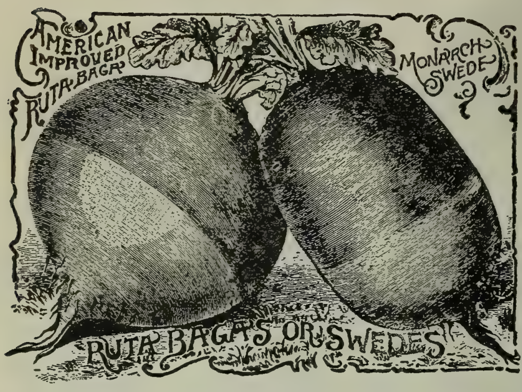
MOSS CURLED PARSLEY.

HAMBURG. A turniprooted variety, used for flavoring soups, etc.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 65c.


MOSS CURLED PARSLEY.

RUTABAGAS



PURPLE TOP. A large early sort of fine quality. Roots globe shaped, skin purplish red above ground and yellow below; flesh yellow; necks small. An excellent variety in every way. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.**

MONARCH. This grand, new and distinct form of rutabaga is, we believe, by far the best of all. The bulbs are of tankard shape, with very small neck, skin dark red above ground and yellow below, flesh rich yellow, fine grained and best quality. Only variety succeeding on our prairie soil. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c; 5 lbs. or more, not prepaid, at 35c.**

IMPROVED AMERICAN. Very solid, fine quality, valuable for the table and for feeding stock; good shape; smooth skin, small neck; keeps well; a choice strain. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 45c; 5 lbs. or more, not prepaid, at 30c.**

WHITE SWEET GERMAN. Large size, oval form and very solid; flesh pure white and sweet. The best keeping variety. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c; 5 lbs. or more, not prepaid, at 35c.**

CARTER'S IMP. HARDY SWEDE. Large size, excellent quality and immense yielder. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 40c; 5 lbs. or more, not prepaid, 25c.**

ONE COW. If you have even one cow it will pay you to grow some **RUTABAGAS, MANGLES, CARROTS AND PENCILARIA.**

ROOTS

HORSERADISH. Fine, large, thick roots may be grown in a single season by planting the young roots early in the spring in good, rich loose soil. Fresh plantings should be made from year to year as the old roots grow rough and prongs. **Small roots by mail, doz., 25c; per 100, $1.00.**

RHUBARB

CULTURE. Usually multiplied by division of roots. Plant four feet apart each way, in very rich soil. Can easily be grown from the seed which we herewith offer. Rhubarb is a gross feeder and will make good use of the strongest manure, either fresh or rotted. Pull as long as demand continues, which is usually one or two months. Cultivate well and top dress liberally twice a year, in early spring and at the end of pulling season. Plants are easily grown from seed and used for forcing during winter.

VICTORIA. A good market sort. Stalks red. This is sometimes called "wine plant," and is very much superior to the common kinds of pie plant. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c.**

HERBS

ANISE. Used for garnishing and flavoring; the seeds have an agreeable aromatic taste. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c.**
DILL. Stems and seeds are used for flavoring and pickling with cucumbers. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c.**
SAGE. Much used for flavoring and dressing. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c.**
SUMMER SAVORY. For flavoring soups, etc. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c.**
THYME. Used for seasoning soups, sausages, etc. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c.**

TOBACCO

It is not generally known that Tobacco can be successfully grown in the West. A year's supply of good smoking Tobacco can be easily produceed on a small plot of ground. The seed should be sown on a finely prepared seed bed early in the spring, and when about six inches high the young plants set out two feet apart in rows three feet apart and cultivated frequently.

CONNECTICUT LEAF. Best adapted to the Northern and Middle States, as it is hardier and matures its crops earlier than other varieties. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c.**

CHOICE HAVANA. An Americanized strain of this popular Cuban variety. Fine texture and superior flavor. Largely used for making the famous Havana cigar. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 30c.**

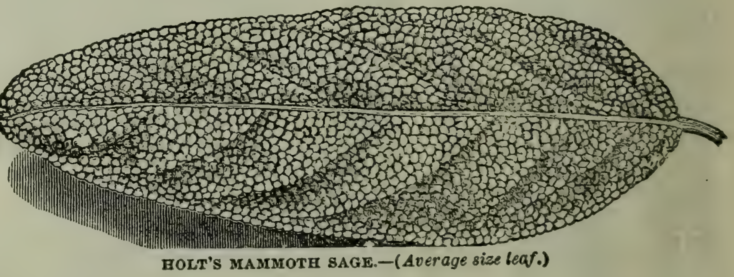
Have received seeds all right. Many thanks.—Mrs. S. C. Payne, Shelby, Mich., April 13, '10.

I have received seeds all O. K. and am very much pleased with them.—J. F. Courtright, Chandler, Okla., March 17th, '10.

Just received my seeds ordered from you and am well pleased with them.—Mrs. Susan J. Reighard, Ebensburg, Penn., March 3d, '10.

We have just received our seeds and are greatly pleased with them.—Mrs. Grace Musser, Juda, Wisconsin, March 26th, '10.

Have just received our seeds and am greatly obliged to you for quick action.—Mrs. N. V. Thompson, Hillsboro, Tenn., March 26th, '10.



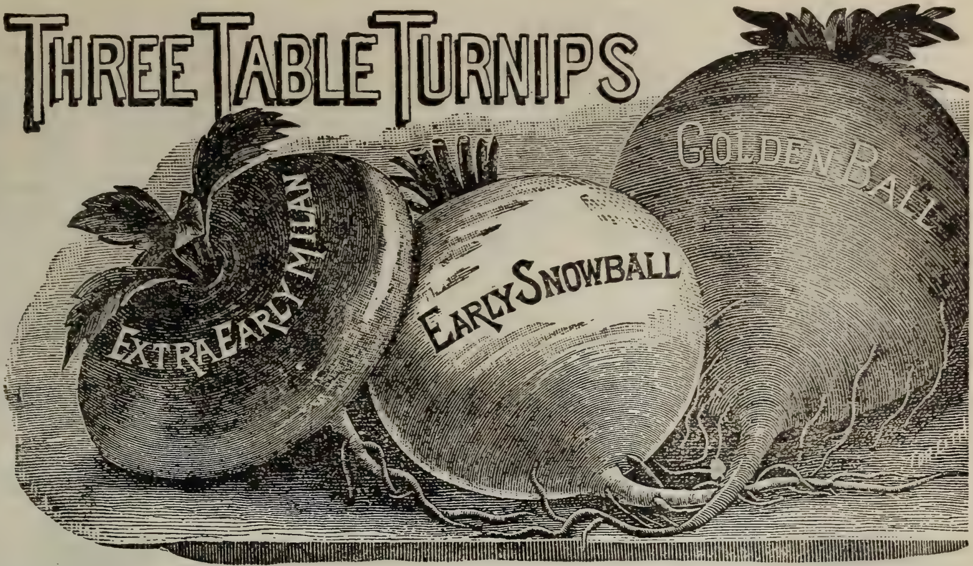
HOLT'S MAMMOTH SAGE.—(*Average size leaf.*)

If you have a vegetable garden you will find the "Planet Jr." No. 4 Combined Hill and Drill Seeder and Wheel Hoe Cultivator and Plow to be almost indispensable. In sowing it quite equals our best seeders; in cultivating it is the equal of our best wheel hoes. Drills or drops all garden seeds regularly, producing regular stand and even growth. Cultivates all vegetables between the rows, on each side of the row, throws dirt to or from the row, hills up, marks out, plows, levels, etc. Instantly changed from one to the other. This tool cannot be too highly recommended. **PRICE: Complete, $9.50. As a Drill only, $7.50.**

Received seeds all O. K. Think they are fine. Many thanks.—Jennings B. Watson, Milford, Kansas, April 3d, '10.

Shipment of seeds received and they look fine, new and fresh. Many thanks.—Wm. Freeman, Greenview, Ills., Apr. 3d, '10.

Received seeds all right. Am obliged to you for favors.—Respect, Mrs. Mary Ferrell, New Wilmington, Penn., April 30th, '10.



EXTRA EARLY PURPLE TOP MILAN. One of the earliest sorts in cultivation. The bulb is very flat, of medium size, quite smooth, with a bright purple top. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

EARLY WHITE MILAN. Much like the cut it is pure white all over, instead of having purple top. Quite popular with gardeners. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 70c.**

GOLDEN BALL OR ORANGE JELLY. A very beautiful and bright yellow turnip of medium size. It is hardy and one of the best of keepers. Flesh extremely firm and solid. Always brings a good price in the market. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

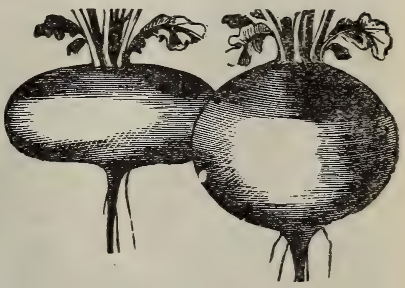
PURPLE TOP GLOBE. Similar to above, except in shape. The largest yielder of any turnip on the list; desirable for table use or stock. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c; 5 lbs., or more, not prepaid, 35c per lb.**

EARLY SNOWBALL. A globe-shaped, white skinned turnip, which is exceedingly productive; very early and particularly adapted for family or market use. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.**

PURPLE TOP STRAP LEAVED. The standard for this part of the country for late planting. Round, flat, good sized, small top, good flavor. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c; 5 lbs. or more, not prepaid, 35c per lb.**

EARLY WHITE FLAT DUTCH. An early garden variety of excellent quality. Good size and tender. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.**

WHITE EGG. A quick growing, egg-shaped, perfectly smooth, pure white variety with small top and leaves. The flesh is very sweet, firm and mild, never having the rank, strong taste of some of the early varieties. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**


PURPLE TOP GLOBE.

MIXED TURNIPS. All the table varieties of turnips mixed in equal proportions. A desirable mixture for family use. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.**

IN CONCLUSION

In making up our Catalog and list of Farm, Field, Grass and Vegetable Seeds, we have included all the varieties of merit, which have been tested and found satisfactory, and we especially recommend all sorts contained in this Catalog. We believe the different varieties listed to be unexcelled by any seed growers, seed house or seed firm anywhere. Great care has been exercised in the selection of varieties and in growing the seeds. Every precaution and safeguard possible have been exercised. It is our highest ambition to please our customers—to help them to grow better crops from our seeds, if possible, than from seeds sent out by other houses. In short, we want to make it an object to you to send your orders and trade to us. Once a customer, we are confident you will remain with us and will never send elsewhere for your seeds as long as we send you good seeds and treat you fairly—"give you an honest deal."

Our prices are as low as good seeds can be sold for anywhere and allow a reasonable profit. They are the very best obtainable anywhere, at any price, and we want every one who receives this Catalog to at least send us a trial order. It matters not how large or small it may be, it will have the same careful attention, and we will try to serve you in a manner that will please you.

They Grow to Perfection Down in the Big State of Texas

I want to write just a line to say the vegetable and garden seeds I sent to you for last spring grew to perfection. Our garden, and it was a good one, was the best we ever grew, and the beauty of it was, we had vegetables a month before anyone who planted Southern grown seed. Inclosed find list of seeds wanted this year. It is a good bill and will amount to $25 or $30, and I want the best discounts you can make me, but remember, I want your highest grade new crop seeds. The Peep O' Day Sweet Corn was the wonder of the world. The Red Wethersfield Onions were every one prize takers in size. The cucumbers were the finest, earliest I ever grew. In short, the seeds I got from you were ahead of anything I have ever grown or seen in Texas. Trusting to have an early reply and quotations on my bill of seeds, I remain,

Yours very truly, John Dennison, Ft. Worth, Texas.

A NOTE FOR THE LADIES.

The best advertisement of Ratekin's Seeds has been the kind words spoken by admiring friends. We have over 65,000 customers on our books, most of whom were first induced to try Ratekin's seed, plants or bulbs through the recommendation of mutual acquaintances.

We naturally want this good work to keep right on, and every catalog sent out this year to bring not only one order, but two, if possible.

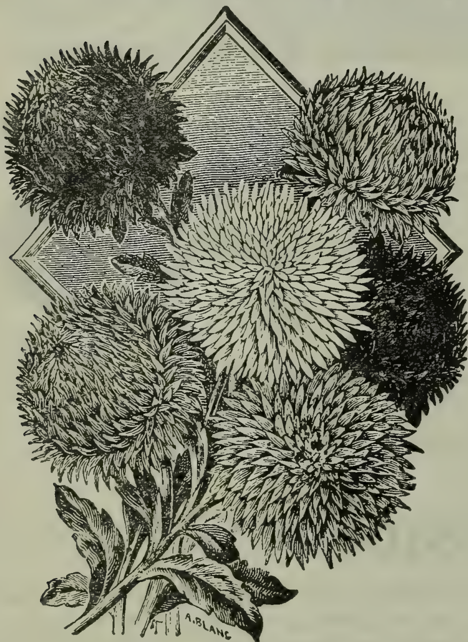
This Seed Annual is certainly one that we are proud of, and one which we are sure will interest every lover of beautiful flowers. When visiting some friend or when a friend may be visiting you this winter or spring if she is not already acquainted with Ratekin's seeds, plants, etc., won't you show them this Seed Annual, calling attention to the many liberal offers, such as: 25 cents extra in seeds for every dollar sent us for seed by packet or ounce. Special offers on different vegetable seeds. Also the many other offers all through our Seed Annual. See first inside cover page for premiums in addition to discounts offered on this page.

We are after 10,000 new customers this season, and we trust you wiill assist us to find three or four in your neighborhood.

Hoping we will have the pleasure of sending you some of our flower seeds along with other seeds for the coming season, and assuring you we are always at your command when we can serve you.

J. W. RATEKIN, Proprietor.

A VERY SELECTED LIST OF FLOWER SEEDS



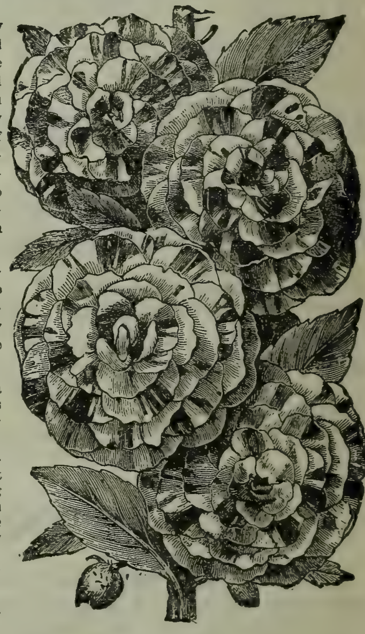
ASTERS.

We are pleased to offer a very choice list of the most popular and easily grown flower seeds. They are all strictly fresh and first-class and the best obtainable. We know you will be pleased with them, as they will undoubtedly prove a thing of joy and beauty. We urge every farmer (under the supervision and efficient assistance of the good wives) to plant and adorn the home with flowers; it will pay in more ways than one.

We regret that we cannot illustrate every one of the varieties we list, but space forbids. Many varieties that are usually listed seperately we have included in a single package under the name of mixed varieties.

The pleasure resulting from a large and varied collection of flowers will amply repay for the time and labor used.

The grade and varieties we handle are of the best, so we cannot make any great cut on prices, filling the packages as we do. We can guarantee you great value for the money, and know you will be fully satisfed if you pass us your order. Our list contains the up-to-date varieties.



BALSAM.

ASTERS.

It is unnecessary to dwell on the great beauty of these popular favorites,as they are appreciated by everyone. Our seed is the finest that France and Germany can produce. We recommend our friends to plant a number of varieties, as no other annuals afford so magnificent a display during the summer and fall. Hardy annual.

For $1.00 you may select Seeds in Pkts. amounting to $1.25. For $2.00 you may select Seeds in Pkts. amounting to $2.50.
For 3.00 you may select Seeds in Pkts. amounting to 3.75. For 4.00 you may select Seeds in Pkts. amounting to 5.00.

DWARF CHRYSANTHEMUM—FLOWERED. Very desirable on account of its large and perfect flowers, great beauty and late blooming, mixed, 10-inch. **PRICE: 5c.**

QUEEN OF THE MARKET. Of graceful spreading habit; its great merit is its early flowering character, being in full bloom fully two weeks before any other Aster begins to blossom; mixed colors; 12-inch. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c.**

FINE MIXED. Embracing a great many varieties and colors. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c.**

ANTIRRHINUM (Snapdragon). Gaily colored flowers. Choice mixed. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c.**

BACHELOR'S BUTTONS.

It is a beauty, the national flower of Germany, and a great favorite in all parts of the old country. A unique little plant, forming a dense mass of foliage, over which are borne hundreds of lovely blue blossoms, beautifully fringed and serrated. Hardy annuals; two to three feet high. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c.**

CANNA.

Stately and highly ornamental foliage plants, growing from five to ten feet high, and forming a most beautiful object for the lawn or for large circular beds. Mixed, all colors. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c.**

ALGERATUM.

Valuable plants for large beds or borders, and very useful where cut flowers are in demand; in bloom the whole summer; also good for winter blooming in pots; succeeding in any soil. Indispensable for bouquets. Hardy annuals.

FINE MIXED. 13-inch. **PRICE: 5c.**

ADONIS. Scarlet flower; best mixture. **Pkt., 5c.**

BALSAMS.

LADY SLIPPERS, or TOUCH-ME-NOT. These are old favorites with everyone, owing to their handsome double flowers, brilliant colors and stately growth. Half-hardy annuals.

CAMELIA, FLOWERED. Double, very choice; spotted and variegated with white, mixed. **PRICE: 5c.**

FINE MIXED. Finest varieties and colors, mixed. **5c.**

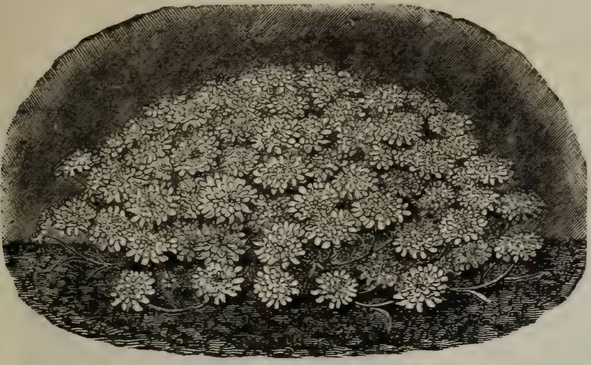
DOUBLE CAMELIA—FLOWERED. These are (like Asters, Pansies, Phlox and Peas) one of our specialties, which we sell to the best trade all over the country, and we know that our seed will produce fine, large, double flowers in great abundance.

ALYSSUM SWEET.

White in clusters; beautiful for borders. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c.**

BALLOON VINE.

A very pretty, rapid growing climber, succeeding best in a warm situation. Remarkable for its inflated, semi-transparent capsules. Sometimes called "Love in a Puff," Flowers white. **PRICE: Pkt., 5c.**



CANDYTUFT.

FLOWERS

Continued

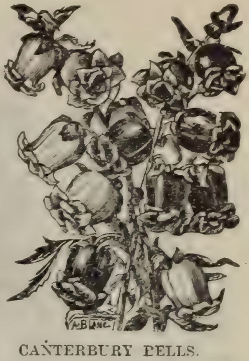
CALCEOLARIA. Mixed colors. **Pkt., 10c.**

CANTERBURY BELLS. Very ornamental garden plants of easiest culture; hardy biennial, 2½ feet high, producing large, bell-shaped flowers of exquisite colors. Fine mixed. **Pkt., 5c.**

CARNATION. The finest of the Pink family, very fragrant. Our seed is unsurpassed. Finest mixed, the best greenhouse variety. **Pkt., 10c.**

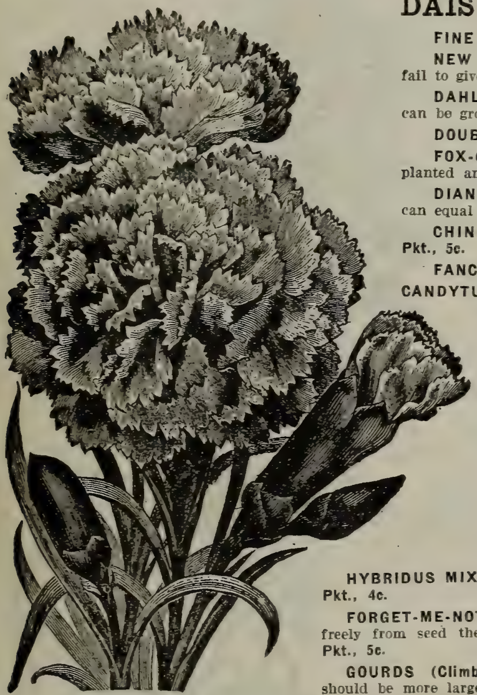
CINERARIA. As will be seen by the illustration from a single plant, the Cineraria is a wonder for wealth of bloom and symmetry of form.

LARGE FLOWERING MIXED. Pkt., 10c.



CANTERBURY BELLS.

CYPRESS VINE. A beautiful climber with delicate, dark green foliage, and an abundance of bright star-shaped scarlet and white blossoms, which in the bright sunshine is a mass of beauty. Mixed colors. **Pkt., 5c.**



CARNATION.

DAISY. **(Bellis Perennis).** Will make young, strong plants to carry over winter with protection, and blooms very early in the spring.

FINE DOUBLE MIXED. Six-inch. **Pkt., 5c.**

NEW GIANT SNOWBALL. A most charming variety of this handsome little flower. Don't fail to give this little beauty a fair trial, and it will be sure to please you. **PRICE: Per pkt., 10c.**

DAHLIA. Every one knows and admires the Double Dahlia, but few are aware that it can be grown so easily from the seed, and flowers the first season. **Pkt., 5c.**

DOUBLE MIXED. Finest varieties, two to four feet. **Pkt., 5c.**

FOX-GLOVE (Digitalis). Showy for backgrounds and borders and are very beautiful when planted among shrubs. Thrives in any ordinary garden soil. Fine mixed colors. **Pkt., 5c.**

DIANTHUS (Pink). The China and Japan Pinks are deservedly very popular, as few flowers can equal them in beauty and profusion of bloom. **Pkt., 5c.**

CHINESE (Double Chinese Pink). A splendid mixture; one of the finest varieties, one foot. **Pkt., 5c.**

FANCY MIXED. Pkt., 5c.

CANDYTUFT (Iberis). Among the most useful of perfectly hardy annuals. Will grow in any soil, requires no care, and produces neat clusters of flowers very freely. **Pkt., 5c.**

EMPRESS. A beautiful, pure white variety of branching habit, producing trusses of flowers. We can recommend this for a fine bed of early white flowers. **Pkt., 5c.**

FINE MIXED. Including many colors. **Pkt., 5c.**

CALLIOPSIS. Bright golden flowers, rich velvety and orange colors in choicest mixture. **Pkt., 5c.**

COCKSCOMB. A class of very magnificent, attractive and showy annuals, producing massive heads, of rich shades and colors, of great effect in the garden or in pots. Well adapted to our climate, as they will stand drouth well.

FINEST MIXED. All colors; 2 feet. **Pkt., 5c.**

COSMOS.—MAMMOTH PERFECTION. Seed sown in April or May and transplanted to open ground will produce plants 5 to 6 feet high by September, and from then till November will be covered with hundreds of blossoms 3 in. across, resembling single dahlias. **All colors, mixed. Pkt., 5c.**

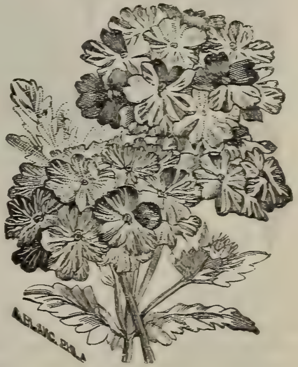
HYBRIDUS MIXED. A choice mixture of all colors and sorts. **Pkt., 4c.**

FORGET-ME-NOT. Well known garden favorites. Flowers freely from seed the first summer. Blue, sky-blue, white, mixed. **Pkt., 5c.**

GOURDS (Climbing). These curious and interesting plants should be more largely grown. All varieties mixed. **Pkt., 5c.**

FOUR O'CLOCK (Marvel of Peru). Everyone knows this favorite annual. **Pkt., 5c.**

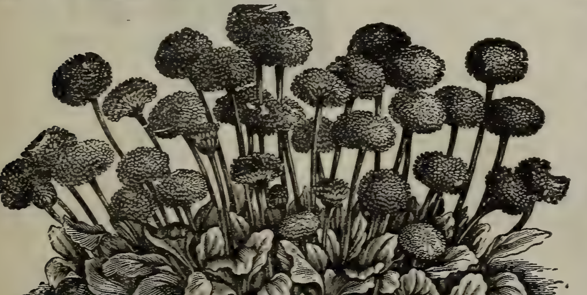
CHRYSANTHEMUM. A handsome plant, with striking and brilliant flowers, blooming till late in the autumn, when it is in full glory; producing double and single flowers of various shades; very attractive for bouquets and vases. Sometimes called "Painted Daisies." Hardy Annuals.



HELIOTROPE.

Single Annual, Mixed, Pkt., 5c.

Crimson and Double Annual, mixed colors. Pkt., 5c.



DAISY.

GERANIUM. Started early, this favorite flower can be produced from the seed, and will flower the first season. Finest mixed. **Pkt., 5c.**

GAILLARDIA. (Annual varieties). Very showy garden annuals, 1 to 2 feet high. Grown in masses they are especially effective; large flowers, 2 or 3 in. across, produced from early summer until frost; unrivalled for cutting. **Pkt., 5c.**

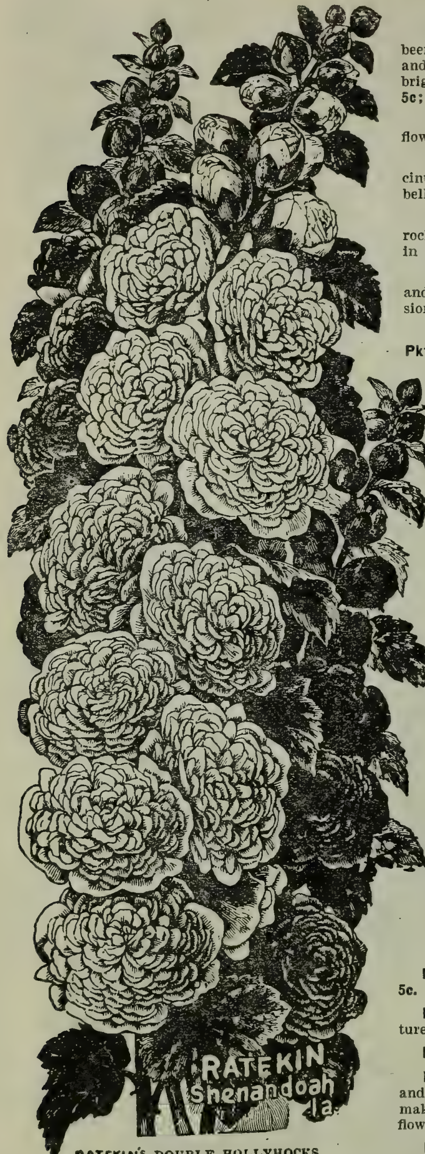
HELIOTROPE. A well-known, profuse flowering and deliciously fragrant plant that everyone loves. Splendid for bedding or pot culture. Can be easily raised from seed, but should be started early in the house. Half hardy perennial.

FINE MIXED. Choicest varieties, mixed; 18-in. **Pkt., 5c.**

SWEET WILLIAM (Finest Mixed). Hardy plants about one foot high, of extreme richness and variety of color, and also deliciously sweet-scented. Our mixture is of the large flowered strain and contains many bright and beautiful colors and markings. **Pkt., 5c.**

SUNFLOWER. Some varieties of this well known plant are very ornamental, and are effective in proper situations in shrubbery borders or as screens. **Pkt., 10c.**

FLOWERS—Continued



RATEKIN'S DOUBLE HOLLYHOCKS.

HOLLYHOCKS. All our seeds of this beautiful plant have been saved from the finest and largest double flowers only and will produce flowers extremely double and in the best, brightest and most charming colors. Sow early. Double, **pkt., 5c**; single, **pkt., 5c.**

HIBISCUS. Robust garden annuals; large saucer-shaped flowers of creamy yellow with purple center. 2 feet. **Pkt., 5c.**

HIACINTHUS CANDICANS. Giant summer-flowering Hyacinth, of robust growth, producing spikes 3 feet long, of white bell-shaped flowers; 5 ft. **Pkt., 5c.**

ICE PLANT. Pretty summer annual trailer for vases and rockwork; leaves covered with ice-like drops. Much used in Europe for garnishing. ½ ft. **Pkt., 5c.**

LARKSPUR (Delphinium). Plants of great beauty, richness and endless variety of colors, with great duration and profusion of bloom.

DOUBLE FINE MIXED. Many varieties and colors. **Pkt., 5c.**

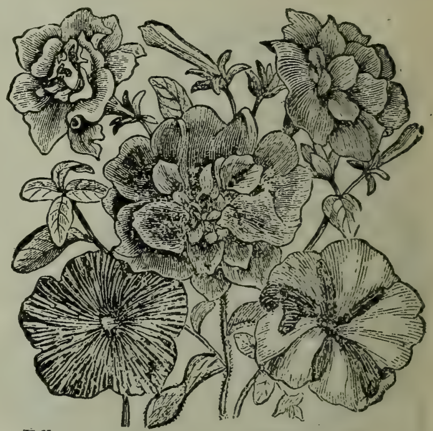
HOLLYHOCKS.

LATANA. Rapid growing, constant blooming, tender perennial plants for pot culture in the winter or garden decorations in the summer; clusters of flowers, orange, white, pink, etc. 2 to 3 feet. Mixed colors. **Pkt., 10c.**

MARIGOLD (Tagetes). A free-flowering plant of easy culture, with double flowers of rich and beautiful colors, producing a splendid effect, whether planted in beds or borders, and continuing in beauty until destroyed by frost. Half-hardy annuals.

AFRICAN MIXED. Best double colors, 2 ft. **Pkt., 5c.**

LEGION OF HONOR. Dwarf, compact, with dark-green, fern-like leaves; rich golden-yellow, marked with velvety brown. Blooms abundantly from July until cut down by frost. 15-inch. **Pkt., 5c.**



DOUBLE AND SINGLE PETUNIA.

DOUBLE FRENCH MIXED. Yellow, brown and crimson, beautifully striped. 1 foot. **Pkt., 5c.**

MIGNONETTE (Reseda Odorato). This fragrant little plant is probably the most popular annual grown. If the plants are thinned out they will grow stronger and produce larger spikes of flowers.

SWEET SCENTED (Odorato). The old variety, very fragrant. 1 foot. **Pkt., 5c.**

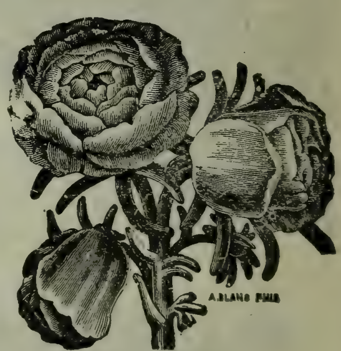
MIGNONETTE, MIXED. Many varieties. **Pkt., 5c.**

MORNING GLORIES (Fine Mixed). A mixture of the old varieties. **Pkt., 4c.**

MOON FLOWER (Finest Mixed). Pkt., 5c.

NASTURTIUM (Dwarf). One of our showiest and most popular annuals, forming compact plants, making gorgeous masses of rich colored and brilliant flowers. **Pkt., 5c.**

KING OF TOM THUMBS. Intense scarlet flowers, with rich dark foliage. **Pkt., 5c.**



DOUBLE PORTULACA.

CLOTH OF GOLD. In striking contrast to the above, the foliage is a clear, bright yellow, while the deep scarlet flowers add much to its beauty. **Pkt., 5c.**

FINEST MIXED. Many varieties and colors. **Pkt., 5c.**

FINEST MIXED TALL NASTURTIUM. Many bright colors. **Pkt., 5c.**

PANSY (Heartease). The Pansy is the most popular of all flowers grown from seed. It is everywhere popular, both for the brilliant beauty of its flowers and the long continuation of bloom.

FAUST OR KING OF THE BLACK. Deep, coal black, coming constant from seed; a group of this vartiety presents a fine appearance. **Pkt., 5c.**

WHITE OR SNOW QUEEN. Flowers of a delicate, pure satiny white. **Pkt., 5c.**

FINE MIXED. Fine varieties and colors, mixed. **Pkt., 5c.**

PETUNIAS. Indispensable flowering plants for both garden and pot culture, flowering continuously. They flower in a few weeks' time from seed. Height about one foot.

SINGLE, FINE MIXED. White crimson pink, striped, blotched, etc. **Pkt., 5c.**

PHLOX DRUMMONDII. We invite particular attention to the large flowering as especially fine. Easy of culture. 18-inch. Hardy annual. **Pkt., 5c.**

ALBA. Pure white. **Pkt., 5c.**

FINE MIXED. All varieties and colors. **Pkt., 5c.**

DRUMMONDII. This variety is a profuse bloomer, and of great value for bouquets. **Pkt., 8c.**

PORTULACA. In brilliancy and beauty of colors Portulacas are unrivaled. They delight in sunny situations and light soils, where they rapidly carpet the ground.

FINEST SINGLE MIXED. A great variety of colors. **Pkt., 5c.**

DOUBLE ROSE, FLOWERED MIXED. Unsurpassed for brilliancy of color and great beauty. **Pkt., 5c.**

RICINUS (Castor Oil Bean). Ornamental plant of stately growth and picturesque foliage, with brilliant colored fruit, producing a sub-tropical effect; fine for lawns.

ZANZIBARIENSIS. The largest Castor Bean in cultivation. An entirely new class from Africa, with leaves often measuring two feet across, some being light green, others bronze brown. **Pkt., 5c.**

FINE MIXED. The best and choicest varieties mixed. **Pkt., 5c.**

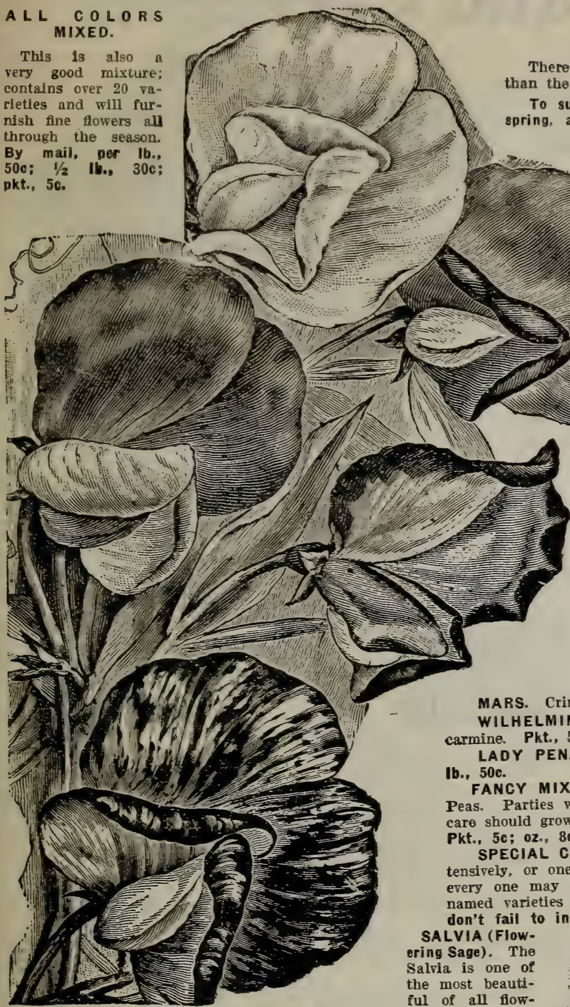
WALLFLOWER. Greatly prized for their exquisite fragrance. They grow in long, brilliant colored spikes of flowers. There are many varieties. Plants removed to pots in autumn will produce an abundance of delightfully fragrant flowers.

DOUBLE VARIETIES MIXED. Pkt., 10c.

FLOWERS—Continued

ALL COLORS MIXED.

This is also a very good mixture; contains over 20 varieties and will furnish fine flowers all through the season. **By mail, per lb., 50c; ½ lb., 30c; pkt., 5c.**



SWEET PEAS

There is no annual grown that is more popular, or that is more admired by all than the Sweet Pea, with its dainty colors and delicate perfume.

To succeed best they should be sown as soon as the ground can be worked in spring, and when well up given wire netting to support them. If allowed to form seed they will soon stop flowering and die down.

BLANCHE FERRY. Popular pink and white. **Pkt., 5c; oz. 15c; lb., 50c.**

BLANCHE BURPEE. A new large white; one of the finest yet produced. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; lb., 50c.**

ECKFORD MIXTURE. This mixture contains over 40 varieties, including the novelties of 1900 and other choice varieties. **By mail, postpaid: Per lb., 55c; ½ lb., 30c; ¼ lb., 15c; oz., 10c; pkt., large size, 5c.**

COUNTESS OF RADNOR. One of the handsomest, standard rich lavender mauve, wings lighter. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c.**

CUPID. An unique novelty, of dwarf, shrubby growth, therefore desirable for bedding. Flowers pretty and freely produced. Mixed colors. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c.**

Bargain Mixtures of Sweet Peas

We find ourselves with large stocks of some of the best named kinds and we have taken a few hundred pounds and mixed them. **Bargain Mixture Sweet Peas, prepaid: lb., 30c; ¼ lb., 12c; pkt., 5c.**

EMILY HENDERSON. Earliest blooming standard pure white variety. It begins to flower nearly as soon as the Extra Early Blanche Ferry. Flowers of snowy whiteness, with reflexed standard. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c.**

EMILY ECKFORD. A superb, large flower of rosy heliotrope color. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c.**

EXTRA EARLY BLANCHE FERRY. Earliest of all. An improvement on Painted Lady. Delicately handsome and a profuse bloomer. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c.**

MAID OF HONOR. An exquisite variety. Flowers daintily shaded light blue on a white ground, and boldly edged with a narrow border of deep violet. **Pkt., 5c; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 45c.**

MARS. Crimson scarlet. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 8c; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 45c.**

WILHELMINA. Very large and perfect shaped flower; white, striped with bright rose carmine. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 45c.**

LADY PENZANCE. Orange-pink, wings pure white. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.**

FANCY MIXED. A very choice collection of the newest and best large flowering Sweet Peas. Parties who want everything good and want to grow them with the least amount of care should grow our mixed seed. A better mixture cannot be bought anywhere at any price. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 8c; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 50c, postpaid.**

SPECIAL COLLECTION of Sweet Peas; there is no other flower which is grown so extensively, or one so popular as Sweet Peas; we have made up a special collection, so that every one may try our different varieties; you may select one packet each of all of the named varieties of Sweet Peas, including 15 varieties, for 35c; **this collection is worth 60c; don't fail to include it in your order.**

SALVIA (Flowering Sage). The Salvia is one of the most beautiful of all flowers; the brilliant spikes of the scarlet flowers produce for months a dazzling effect. Of easy culture and fine for massing and bouquets. **Pkt., 10c.**

NEW DWARF OR BONFIRE (Large Flowering Scarlet Sage). A splendid new sort, blooming much earlier than old variety. **Pkt., 10c.**

STOCK (Ten Weeks). The Ten Week Stock is one of the most popular, beautiful and important of our garden favorites; whether for bedding, massing or pot culture, it is unsurpassed, either for brilliancy of color, exquisite fragrance or profusion and duration of bloom. Hardy annual.

NEW LARGE FLOWERING, habit dwarf, with magnificent spikes of very large double flowers of all colors; mixed; eighteen inches. **Pkt., 5c.**

VERBENA. A well-known favorite, and is valuable for bedding on account of its low trailing habit; blooms freely from seed, and is more healthy and makes larger and hardier plants than if grown from cuttings; requires a very rich, mellow soil. Half-hardy perennials.

ALBA. Pure white, a desirable variety for florists or for the cemetery. **Pkt., 6c.**

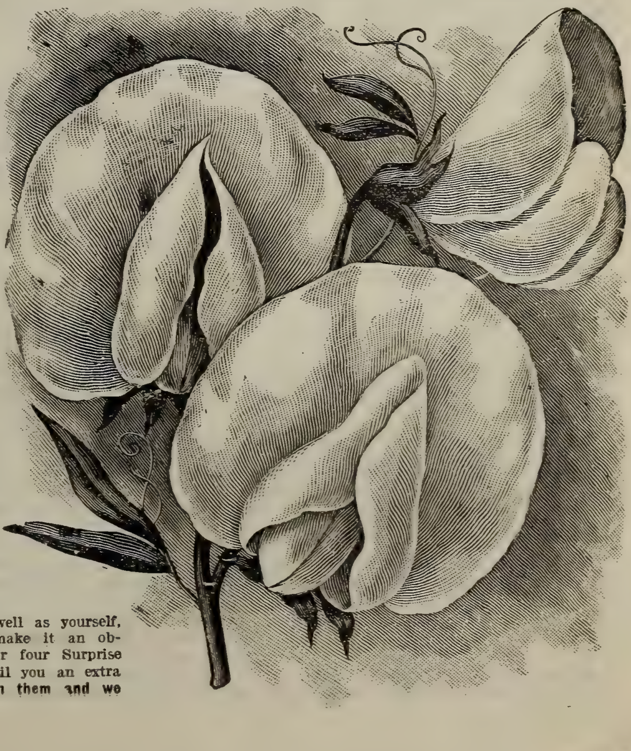
EXTRA CHOICE MIXED. Seed saved from the finest collection of named sorts. **Pkt., 7c.**

VIOLET (Viola Odorata). Well-known fragrant early spring blooming plants; thriving best in the summer in a shady situation in a rich, deep soil; seed takes from 3 to 6 months to germinate.

SINGLE MIXED. Blue and white. **Pkt., 10c.**

WISTARIA. One of the most popular hardy vines, climbing to a height of 50 feet or more. It is perennial and easily grown from seed. Of luxuriant and rapid growth, bearing in the spring immense panicles of purple flowers producing in great profusion. **Pkt., 10c.**

SPECIAL OFFER. We want your neighbors, as well as yourself, to test our seeds, and will make it an object to you to interest them. Secure orders from your friends for four Surprise Collections, and remit us $1.00 in payment thereof, and we will mail you an extra collection for your trouble. **If goods are not as represented, return them and we will refund your money.**



Hardy Vines and Creepers

Akebia Quinata

A perfectly hardy, fast-growing Japan vine, producing flowers in large clusters of chocolate purple color, possessing a most delicious perfume, unsurpassed for covering trellises and verandas; the foliage is never attacked by insects. Each 15c, large 30c.

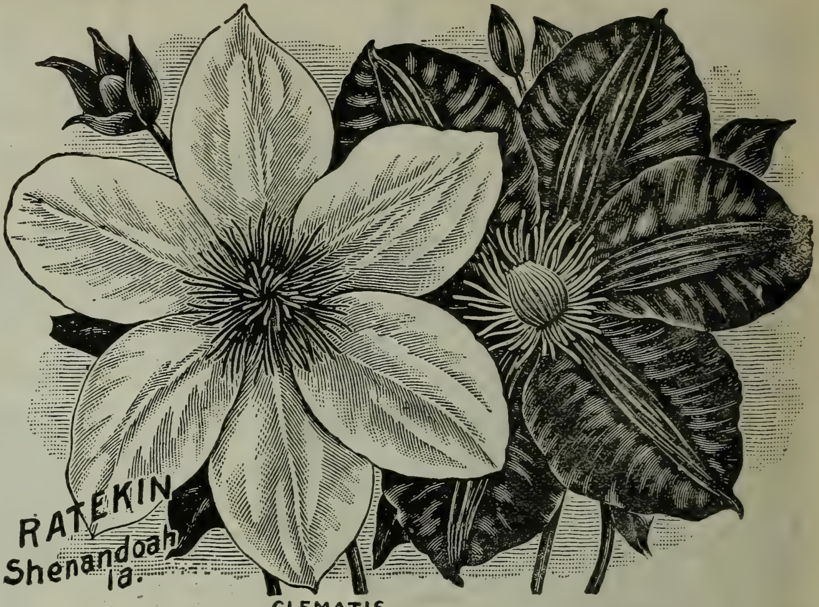
Ampelopsis Engelmanii

ENGELMANII.—Bears very large and abundant foliage. Has the upright manner of growth of the Veitchii and is preferred by many because of its much heavier growth of leaves. Each 25c.

BOSTON IVY.—Price each 25c.

Wistaria

BLUE CHINESE.—A very rapid grower and one of the most beautiful of all climbers. It is perfectly hardy, climbing to a height of fifty feet; when covered with bloom it is magnificent. Each 15c, large 35c.



CLEMATIS

Hardy Clematis

The most popular climbing plant of the day, and is constantly gaining in popularity—and why should it not?—as it is hardy, standing our most severe winters with but slight protection, grows rapidly and blooms freely during the entire season.

JACKMANII.—Most magnificent and showy vine in existence; of strong, healthy growth, perfectly hardy and sure to succeed anywhere. Flowers four to six inches in diameter, of a rich, deep, velvety purple, distinctly veined. It is a prince among all hardy flowering vines. It is especially adapted to open lawns or house fronts in the city or country; blooms the entire season, from July to October, bearing beautiful and lasting flowers. Strong plants, each 50c.

HENRYII.—This may be briefly described as a white flowered Jackmanii. It is the finest of all white sorts, the same size as Jackmanii. Each 50c.

MAD. EDOUARD ANDRE.—An entirely distinct and beautiful new variety, being the nearest approach to a bright red ever sent out. Has the same vigorous growth, hardiness and freedom of bloom as the above, while the color is a pleasing carmine red. Each 50c.

C. RAMONA.—A strong, rapid grower and very hardy. Flowers very large, color a deep sky blue. Each 35 cents.

PANICULATA.—This small flowered variety of Clematis is one of our most beautiful, hardy, fall-blooming vines. The flowers, which are pure snow-white, are produced in immense clusters, fairly covering the plant with a mass of fleecy white; deliciously fragrant. Of extreme rapidity of growth. Each 15c. Large, extra strong plants, 35c.

COCCINEA.—A charming variety of Clematis. Flowers are bell-shaped, and of a brilliant coral red color. A rapid grower and a free bloomer, flowering from June until frost. An herbaceous perennial, growing about 12 feet high. Each 25c.

VIRGIN'S BOWER.—(Clematis Flammula.)—An old-fashioned popular climber, growing to a height of 20 feet, and covered with thousands of pure white, fragrant flowers. The vine is perfectly hardy, rapid growing, graceful, and will succeed everywhere. Each 10c, large 25c.

COLLECTION.—A nice plant of each of above six kinds of Clematis for only $1.40, postpaid. A great bargain.

Honeysuckle

RED CORAL.—A shrubby climber and one of the most satisfactory of all plants. Has been a favorite for many years. The odd-shaped foliage is showy and attractive and it produces its bright red, fragrant, trumpet-shaped flowers almost continuously. Nice for a hedge or for training over a residence. Each 15c, dozen $1.50. Large plants 25c.

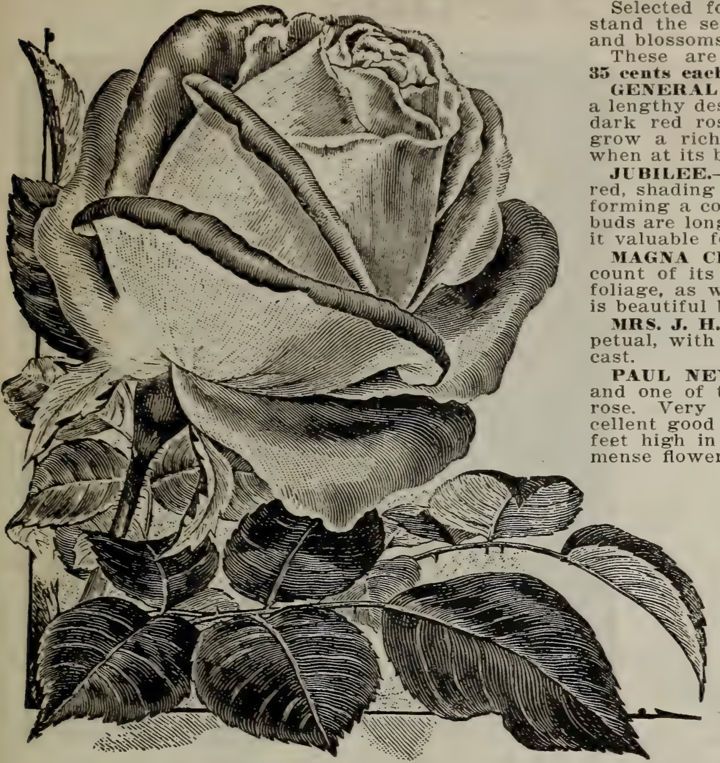
HALLIANA.—(Hall's Japan.)—For real home vines to climb over your windows and doorways there is nothing prettier than the Honeysuckles, and the Halliana is considered by many the sweetest and most beautiful of all. It is now planted in many places on terraces and allowed to run naturally, and it makes a lovely show treated in this way. It is a strong, rapid grower, perfectly hardy and almost an evergreen even in this severe climate. Blooms constantly and profusely from June to November. Flowers pure white changing to yellow, and of peculiarly delicious fragrance. Fine for trellises or pillars. Foliage bright, glossy green; makes dense shade. Each 10c, doz. $1.00. Large two-year-old plants 20c; doz. $2.00.

GOLDEN LEAVED.—Slender, moderate grower; leaves are beautifully veined and netted with bright yellow; prevailing color of foliage is bright yellow; flowers yellow and sweet-scented; fine for pillars and trellises. Each 15c; large plants 25c.

Bignonia

RADICANS.—(Trumpet Creeper.)—Another old-fashioned hardy climber. It has clusters of large, trumpet-shaped crimson orange flowers. It grows in almost any soil and under trying conditions, hardy. Each 10c, large plants 25c.

GIANT IRON CLAD ROSES



Selected for our customers who want roses that will stand the severest climate and give satisfactory results and blossoms everywhere.

These are all strong outdoor grown plants. **Price, 35 cents each. One of each, 13 for $3.00.**

GENERAL JACQUEMINOT.—Too well known to require a lengthy description. It still holds first place among the dark red roses, and is one of the most satisfactory to grow a rich crimson scarlet; simply a mass of bloom when at its best.

JUBILEE.—A very superior addition to this class. Pure red, shading to crimson and maroon at the base of petal, forming a coloring equalled by that of no other rose, the buds are long, held up by long stout flower stems, making it valuable for cut flowers.

MAGNA CHARTA.—A general favorite. Prized on account of its strong upright growth, and bright healthy foliage, as well as for its magnificent bloom. The color is beautiful bright pink, suffused with carmine.

MRS. J. H. LANG.—A grand, free blooming hybrid perpetual, with fine flowers of soft delicate pink with satin cast.

PAUL NEYRON.—The largest flowered in cultivation, and one of the most prolific bloomers; color deep, clear rose. Very fresh and attractive. The plant is an excellent good grower, making straight shoots four or five feet high in one season; each shoot tipped with an immense flower. Often five inches in diameter.

PRINCE CAMILLE DE ROHAN.—One of the darkest colored roses; very dark velvety crimson, changing to intense maroon. A very prolific bloomer, and blossoms are of excellent form and size.

Hybrid perpetual rose for outdoor planting. These are the June roses, so admirably suited for garden culture, the formation of rose-beds, hedges, etc.

ALFRED COLOMB.—Extra large, round flower, very double and full; color, bright carmine crimson. One of the very best dark colored sorts.

ANNA DE DIESBACH.—Brilliant rose color, with long pointed buds and large perfectly formed blossoms; delightfully fragrant. A vigorous grower and persistent bloomer.

BARON DE BONSTETTEN.—Still the leading dark rose. A splendid shade of dark red, changing to velvety maroon. It blooms very freely and makes a fine shaped bush.

COQUETTE DES ALPS.—Large, full, finely formed flower; color, white, sometimes faintly tinged with pale blush; profuse bloomer.

CLIO.—The flowers of this magnificent rose are simply perfection in form, with fine broad petals, and are beautiful at all stages of development, from the small bud, to the full open flower; color, delicate satin blush, with a light shading of rosy pink at the center. Very free blooming, and strong healthy grower.

GLORIE LYONAISE.—White, tinted with yellow; large, full, and a splendid shape. The nearest approach to a yellow rose of this class.

EUGENE FURST.—In growth and foliage it is everything that could be desired; strong and vigorous, with thick healthy foliage. The flower is a beautiful shade of velvety crimson, with distinct shading of crimson maroon.

MOSS ROSES

CRIMSON GLOBE.—Rich, deep crimson.
BLANCH MOREAU.—Pure white, large, full and perfect form.
COUNTESS OF MURINAIS.—Large, pure white, beautifully mossed.
HENRI MARTIN.—Large, globular flowers, full and sweet; rich, glossy pink, tinged with crimson.
JOHN CRANSTON.—Deep crimson, very double.
PRINCESS ADELAIDE.—Fine, reddish blush; large and vigorous.
Each, strong field grown plants, 40 cents; $4.00 per 12.

HARDY CLIMBING ROSES

Desirable for covering trellises, walls or porches, as they succeed under any circumstances, blooming in clusters of medium sized flowers profusely throughout the season.

ANNA MARIE.—Rosy pink, changing to blush.
BALTIMORE BELLE.—Very double, blush white.
DAWSON.—Flowers very double; bright carmine.
EMPRESS OF CHINA.—Bright pink flowers, practically ever-blooming.
MULTIFLORA JAPONICA.—Blooms in clusters of pure white, perfectly hardy, and a very rapid grower.
PRAIRIE QUEEN.—Always popular, bright rosy red.
RUBY QUEEN.—Deep ruby red, with shiny leathery foliage.
SEVEN SISTERS.—Crimson, changing all shades, to white.
Each, strong plants, 35 cents, $3.50 per 12.

RAMBLER ROSES

We are convinced that they are the most valuable plant introduction of the age. They are all perfectly hardy, and worthy of a place in every garden and at your window.

WHITE.—Identical with Crimson Rambler different only in color, which is pure, clear white.

DOROTHY PERKINS.—In general habit closely resembles Crimson Rambler, but of a beautiful shell pink, full and double, of an unusually large size for a cluster rose.

PINK.—Resembles Crimson Rambler in every respect but color, which in this is clear pink. The mature flowers often change to creamy white when fully matured.

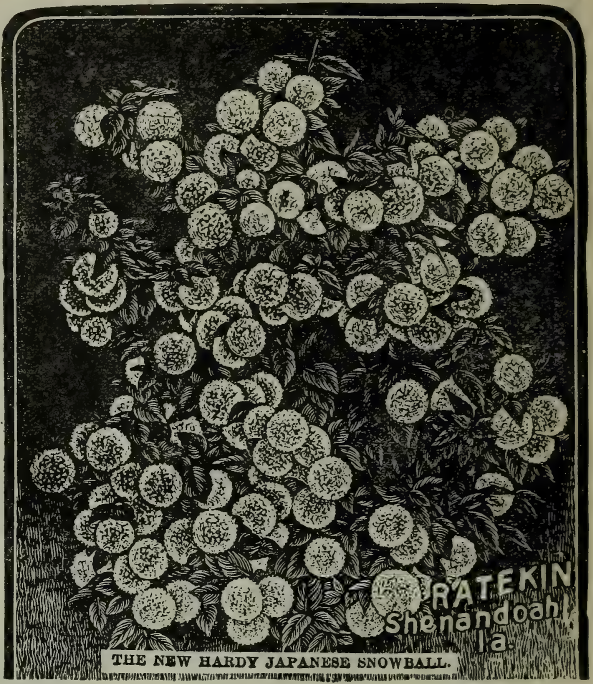
PHILADELPHIA.—Two weeks earlier than the old Crimson Rambler; blossoms all summer, color never fades, bleaches or washes out. Flowers borne in large clusters, completely covering the bush. Individual flowers often 2½ inches across. Perfectly double of a pure, deep, rich crimson. By far more intense than any other Crimson Rambler. In every respect an improvement over the old Crimson Rambler.

CRIMSON.—Recognized as the most beautiful of crimson climbing roses. Thousands have been planted in the past few years, and almost invariably have given entire satisfaction. Flowers are produced in large, pyramidal clusters, thirty-five to forty in a cluster, completely covering the plant, from the ground to the tips. Nothing is more effective.

YELLOW.—Similar to Crimson in style of growth, but individual flowers are larger, and clusters smaller. Color, light canary yellow.

Hardy Shrubs

There is nothing which so quickly, and for so little cost, adds so much to the beauty, cheerfulness and homelike appearance of a place as an assortment of hardy shrubs. They are permanent improvements which increase in size, value and beauty year after year. Our price is for strong, healthy plants sent by mail or express prepaid.



THE NEW HARDY JAPANESE SNOWBALL.

SNOWBALL

JAPAN SNOWBALL (V. Plicatum).—From North China, of moderate growth, with globular heads of pure white flowers early in June; surpasses the common variety in several respects; foliage much handsomer, flowers whiter and more delicate. **Price each, 50c.**

COMMON SNOWBALL (V. O. Sterilis).—A well-known favorite shrub of large size, with globular-shaped heads of flowers; flowers the latter part of May. **Price each, 35c.**

SPIREA

BILLARDII.—A strong growing variety, pink flowers. **Each 15c, large 25c.**

PRUNIFOLIA.—Of symmetrical growth; bears long, graceful sprays of pure white flowers in great profusion. Blooms in May. Perfectly hardy and always satisfactory. **Each 10c, large 25c.**

DOUGLASII.—Somewhat later flowered than Bridal Wreath. Spikes of deep rose-colored flowers. **Each 15c, large 25c.**

ANTHONY WATERER.—Makes a dwarf bush 15 to 18 inches high, covered from spring till late in the fall with large heads of crimson flowers. Satisfactory for borders and hedges. **Each 15c, doz. $1.00; large 25c, doz. $2.00.**

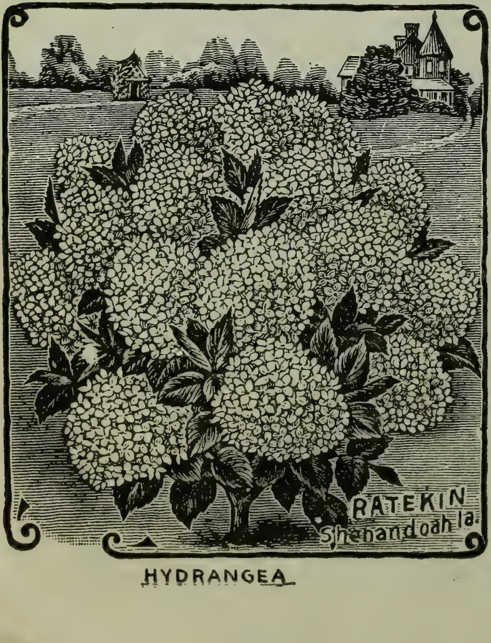
VAN HOUTTI.—(Bridal Wreath.)—The hardiest of all Spireas. Bushes form fine compact clumps; the pure white flowers borne in such masses that they form great plumes, drooping gracefully, giving the clumps the appearance of a snowbank of white bloom. **Each 15c, per doz. $1.25, per 100 $8.50. Large, each 25c, per doz. $2.00, per 100, by express, $14.00.**

LILACS

COMMON.—The old standard variety with bluish purple flowers. **Each 25c.**

PERSIAN.—A well known, strong growing shrub, bearing large, fragrant clusters of purple flowers early in spring. **Each 25c.**

SINGLE WHITE.—Like above, but has white flowers, making it more desired by some. **Each 35c.**



HYDRANGEA

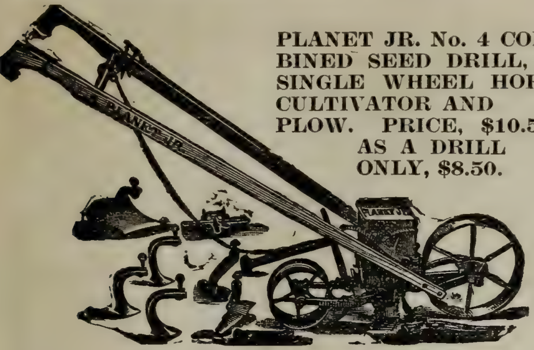
PANICULATA GRANDIFLORA.—The grandest as well as the most popular of all shrubs, and hundreds of thousands of them are sold every year and the demand is constantly increasing. Unsurpassed for the lawn, a hedge, or cemetery planting. It readily attains a height of 5 to 7 feet; hardy in all localities, needs no protection in winter; blooms the first and every season in July for two or three months; the flowers are massive, cone-shaped, sometimes ten inches in length, and changing from the original pure white to pink and finally to a beautiful rich coppery red. **Each 25c, dozen $2.00. Large dormant plants each 50c, dozen $4.00. Large tree form plants 75c. SPECIAL—Two-year-old plants grown specially for hedges, by express, per 100, $15.00, 25 for $3.50.**

PRIVET—California.—A most vigorous grower, of compact and regular form, and foliage is a beautiful shade of glossy, wax-like green which it retains well into the winter, in sheltered situations, being almost an evergreen. The tops sometimes winter kill in this latitude, but is hardy in New York State and throughout the East and South. For hedges plant 8 to 10 inches apart. **Strong one-year-old plants, per doz., $1.00; per 100, $8.00, postpaid. Extra large, per doz., $2.00; 100 for $10.00.**

AMURENSE.—A very hardy variety, fully as handsome as the one above, with glossy leaves and almost an evergreen. A very desirable hedge plant for Iowa and the North. **Each 20c, doz. $1.50, per 100, $15.00, prepaid. By express, per 100, $12.00.**

PLANET JR. TOOLS FOR 1911

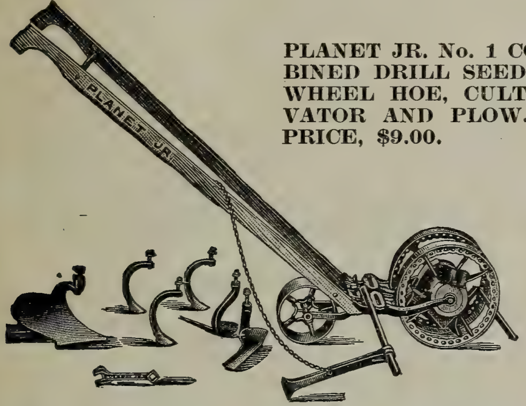
We have not the space to show the whole of the Planet Jr. line, but will send a descriptive catalogue **free** on application. All Wheel Hoes for 1911 will be fitted with **steel frames.** This is a great improvement, as it adds largey to their durability and lasting qualities. By sending your orders to us you can rely upon getting **bottom prices.**


PLANET JR.
PLANET JR.

PLANET JR. No. 4 COMBINED SEED DRILL, SINGLE WHEEL HOE, CULTIVATOR AND PLOW. PRICE, $10.50. AS A DRILL ONLY, $8.50.

This is the most popular combined tool made. It combines in a single implement a first-class hill-dropping seeder, a Single Wheel Hoe or weeder, a cultivator and a plow. The hopper holds two quarts of seed, which can be sown in continuous rows, or dropped in hills at 4, 6, 8, 12 or 24 inches apart.

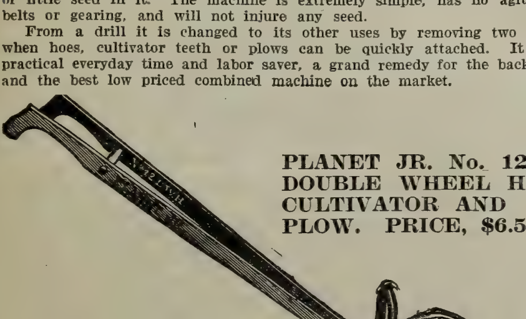
The drill is detached and the tool frame substituted by removing but one bolt. It then becomes a single wheel hoe. It is useful almost every day of the season, at every stage of the garden work. With this one implement the small farmer can do practically all the work in his small crops.



PLANET JR. No. 1 COMBINED DRILL SEEDER, WHEEL HOE, CULTIVATOR AND PLOW. PRICE, $9.00.

This tool is known and used the world over, and excepting our hill and drill seeders, is the most perfect drill known. The hopper holds three pints, and sows in an even, regular stream, whether there is much or little seed in it. The machine is extremely simple, has no agitators, belts or gearing, and will not injure any seed.

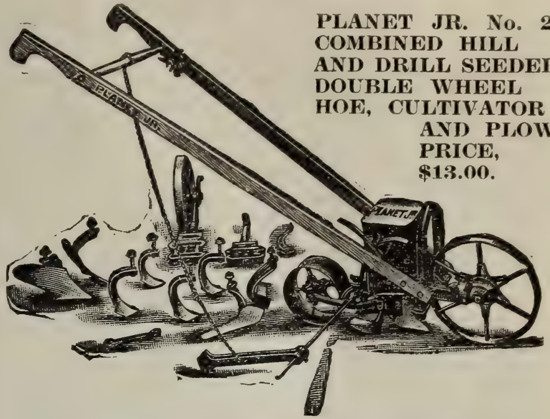
From a drill it is changed to its other uses by removing two bolts, when hoes, cultivator teeth or plows can be quickly attached. It is a practical everyday time and labor saver, a grand remedy for the backache, and the best low priced combined machine on the market.



PLANET JR. No. 12 DOUBLE WHEEL HOE, CULTIVATOR AND PLOW. PRICE, $6.50.

Two acres a day can easily be worked with this implement, and when it is done it will be a better job than three men could have done in the same time with hand hoes. The No. 12 runs either astride or between the rows; kills all the weeds and leaves the earth in fine shape. Then, too, it's so easy to work. Twelve-year-old girls work gardens with them with ease and success.

The No. 12 has a pair of 6-inch hoes, a pair of plows for opening or covering, and a set of 4 all steel cultivator teeth. The tools shown are what gardeners use most and others can be added as wanted.

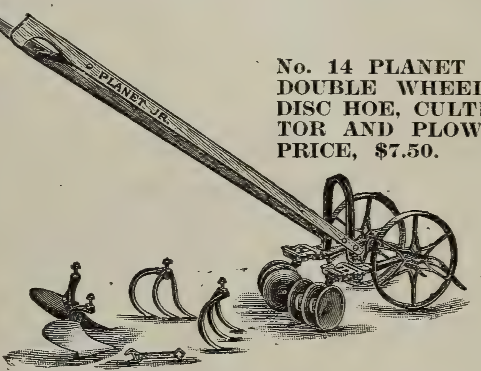

PLANET JR.
PLANET JR.

PLANET JR. No. 25 COMBINED HILL AND DRILL SEEDER, DOUBLE WHEEL HOE, CULTIVATOR AND PLOW. PRICE, $13.00.

This new combined machine is intended for gardeners who have a large enough acreage in crops for a Double Wheel Hoe to be used to good advantage and prefer not to buy separate machines.

As a drill it is almost identical with the Planet Jr. No. 4 Drill, and is thoroughly substantial and accurate in sowing all kinds of garden seeds in hills or drills.

As a Wheel Hoe it is identical with the Planet Jr. No. 12 Double Wheel Hoe, the very best machine on the market. The change from Drill to Wheel Hoe takes but a moment, and the whole combination is one we can heartily recommend and guarantee satisfactory.



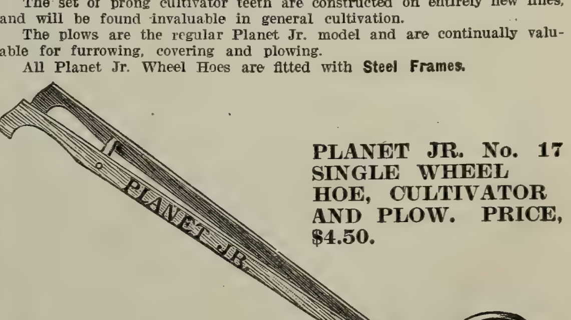
No. 14 PLANET JR. DOUBLE WHEEL DISC HOE, CULTIVATOR AND PLOW. PRICE, $7.50.

This new tool will give excellent satisfaction; is especially pleasing to all who work peat lands. There are three oil tempered discs on each side.

The set of prong cultivator teeth are constructed on entirely new lines, and will be found invaluable in general cultivation.

The plows are the regular Planet Jr. model and are continually valuable for furrowing, covering and plowing.

All Planet Jr. Wheel Hoes are fitted with **Steel Frames.**



PLANET JR. No. 17 SINGLE WHEEL HOE, CULTIVATOR AND PLOW. PRICE, $4.50.

For easy gardening, and at the same time clean and perfect gardening, the kind that will make your garden the talk of the neighborhood and cause your face to glow with honest pride, nothing is quite the equal of this No. 17 Single Wheel Hoe. It is suited to all kinds of garden cultivation and all garden crops. You can do more and better hoeing with it in one day than you can do in three days with a hand hoe. The No. 17 has a pair of 6-inch hoes, a plow and a set of cultivator teeth, an outfit sufficient for most garden work.

Other attachments can be added at any time.

INDEX

FARM, FIELD AND GRASS SEEDS.

Page.

Alfalfa 51
Alfalfa, Turkestan 51
Alsyke Clover 50
Artichokes Roots (or Tubers) 46
Barley, Mansury 38
Barley, Beardless 39
Barley, White Hulless 40
Beets, Stock for Feeding .... 41 & 58
Beets, Table use .... 57 & 58
Beets, Sugar for Stock 58
Bermuda Grass 49
Billion Dollar Grass 53
Blue Grass, Kentucky 49
Buckwheat, New Japanese 37
Buckwheat, Silver Hull 37
Cane or Sorghum Seed, Orange 41
Cane or Sorghum Seed, Amber 41
Cane or Sorghum Seed, Victoria 41
Carrots, Table and Stock 57
Cow Peas 37
Corn (Field Varieties) 13
Diamond Joe's Big White 14, 15, 16
Ratekin's Yellow Dent 17, 18
Ratekin's Iowa Silver Mine 19, 20
Ratekin's Pride of Nishna 21, 22
Wallace's Favorite, Giant White 23
Ratekin's Imperial White 24
Hickory King 24
Boone County White 25
Legal Tender, Yellow 25
Ratekin's Improved Calico 26
St. Charles White 26
Iowa Gold Mine 26
Funk's Yellow Dent 26
Reid's Yellow Dent 26
Ratekin's Gold Standard 27
Ratekin's Queen of Nishna 28
Alaska Northwest Dent 29
Dakota Bloody Butcher 29
Pride of the North 29
Pop Corn, White Rice 66
Pop Corn, Queen Golden 66
Pop Corn, Red Beauty 66
Dibble's Mammoth Yellow Flint 30
Sandford's White Flint 30
King Phillip Flint 30
Ratekin's Giant Shenandoah Fodder Corn 31
Red Cob Southern Fodder Corn 31
Stowell's Evergreen Fodder Corn 31
Corn, Sweet Table 64, 65, 66
Corn, Sweet Stowell's Evergreen 65
Jerusalem Corn or (Milo Maize) 39
Pop Corn 29, 66
Clovers and Grasses 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53
Alsyke Clover 50
Crimson Clover 50
Medium Red Clover 50
Mammoth Clover 50
White Dutch Clover 49
Emmer or Speltz 38
English Rye Grass 48
Evergreen Lawn Grass 49
Meadow Pasture Mixtures 52, 53
Field Peas 37
Field Peas (Canadian) 37
Flax Seed 37
Kaffir Corn 41
Millet, German 53
Millet, Common 53
Millet, Siberian 53
Millet, Japanese Barnyard 53
Ratekin's Big Banner One Hundred Bu. Oats 33
Oats, Texas Red Rust Proof 33
Oats, Ratekin's New Sensation 34
Oats, Newly Imported Kherson 35
Oats, Lincoln 35
Ratekin's Early Champion Oats 35
Oats, Improved, Swedish Select 35
Oats, Mammoth White Side 35
Oats, Mammoth White Russian 35
Orchard Grass 49
Pumpkins, Field and Pie .... 42 & 79
Potatoes, Seed 43, 44, 45, 46
Pencillaria 42
Rape, Dwarf Essex 38
Rye, Mammoth White 37
Sunflower Seed 42
So-Jo Beans 37
Teosinite 39
Vetchs 51
Whip-Poor-Will Cow Peas 37
White Dutch Clover 49
Wheat, Spring 40
Wheat, Winter 40

GARDEN AND VEGETABLE SEEDS.

Page.

Garden, Vine and Vegetable Seeds .... 54 to 87
Asparagus 55
Beans, Bush or Snap, Lima 55, 56
Beans, Pole and Cornfield 57
Beets, Table 57, 58
Beets, Sugar 58
Beets, for Stock Feeding .... 41 & 58
Carrots, Table 57
Carrots, for Stock Feeding 61
Celery 62
Cucumbers 63
Corn, Sweet, Table, Canning and Fodder 64, 65, 66
Chufas or Earth Almonds 65
Cress 65
Corn, Salad 64
Corn, Pop .... 66 & 29
Egg Plant 66
Kale 67
Kohl Rabi 67
Leek 67
Lettuce 67, 68
Melons, Musk 69, 70
Melons, Water 71, 72, 73
Onion Seed 74, 75, 76
Okra or Gumbo 76
Peppers 76
Peas 77, 78
Peanuts 78
Pumpkins, Field and Pie .... 42 & 79
Radishes 80, 81
Rhubarb Seed 81
Rhubarb Roots 86
Horseradish Roots 86
Squash, All Sorts 82
Salsify 83
Spinach 83
Tomatoes 83, 84, 85
Parsnips 85
Parsley 85
Rutabagas 86
Roots, Rhubarb 86
Roots, Horseradish 86
Herbs 86
Tobacco 86
Sage, Holt's Mammoth 86
Turnips, Table and Stock 87

FLOWER SEEDS.

Flower Seeds, All Sorts 88, 89, 90, 91
A Note to the Ladies 88
Asters 88
Batchelor's Buttons 88
Canna 88
Algeratum 88
Balsams 88
Balloon Vine 88
Cypress Vine 89
Daises 89

MISCELLANEOUS.

Reference and Reliability 1
Personal Greeting to Friends and Customers 2
Terms and Information about ordering 3
Easy to Order Seeds by Mail 3
Freight rates from which you can estimate rates to your town 3, 4
Oldest and Largest Seed House in the West 6
Illustration of Outgoing Mail 7
What the Agricultural Press has to say 8, 9, 10
What a few of thousands of farmers say 11
Cleaning and Grading Equipment 11
Elements of Good Seed Corn 12
Cost of Seed Corn per Acre 13
Breeding and Growing of Seed Corn 13
A Few Testimonials 13
Diamond Joe's Big White: The Corn that has Captivated the Corn World 14, 15
A Few Testimonials About Diamond Joe's Big White 14
Photographic View of Diamond Joe's Big White 16
Ratekin's Big Banner One Hundred Bushel Oats 33
A Few Testimonials 33, 34
A Selected List of Flower Seeds 88, 89, 90, 91
Hardy Vines and Creepers 92
Giant Iron Clad Roses 93
Hardy Shrubs and Vines 94
Planet Junior Tools 95
1,200 Acres Nursery Stock .... Next Page
Great Nursery Collection .... See Next Page

Our Fine, Complete, Illustrated Nursery Catalog Mailed Free. A Postal Card will bring it.

COLLECTION No. 1

Ratekin's 15 Ironclad Fruit Trees

Large 3-Year Old Stock.

for $3.90

Hundreds of people in city gardens, or on the farms, wish large fruit trees which will bear at once; some the same year. To these we offer the following. They should be sent by express—that's quicker and surer than freight.

1.	Hyslop Apple	3-year-old, each,	35c	3 for $1.00	10 for $3.00
2.	Transcendent Apple	3 " " "	35c	3 for 1.00	10 for 3.00
3.	Duchess Apple	3 " " "	35c	3 for 1.00	10 for 3.00
4.	Bismarck Apple	3 " " "	75c	3 for 2.00	10 for 6.00
5.	Wealthy Apple	3 " " "	35c	3 for 1.00	10 for 3.00
6.	Ben Davis Apple	3 " " "	35c	3 for 1.00	10 for 3.00
7.	N. W. Greening Apple	3 " " "	35c	3 for 1.00	10 for 3.00
8.	Milton Plum	3 " " "	50c	3 for 1.25	10 for 4.00
9.	De Soto Plum	3 " " "	40c	3 for 1.10	10 for 3.50
10.	Early Richmond Cherry	3 " " "	50c	3 for 1.25	10 for 4.00
11.	Morello Cherry	3 " " "	50c	3 for 1.25	10 for 4.00
12.	Apricot, Mammoth Russian	3 " " "	40c	3 for 1.10	10 for 3.50
13.	Peach, Hardy Shenandoah	3 " " "	35c	3 for 1.00	10 for 3.00
14.	Peach, Champion	3 " " "	35c	3 for 1.00	10 for 3.00
15.	Pear, Wisconsin	3 " " "	40c	3 for 1.10	10 for 3.50

Above 15 Large Fruit Trees, one each, by express or freight, $3.90.
Above 15 Trees (small) by mail, postpaid, $1.95.

COLLECTION No. 2

Apples

PRICE OF THE FOLLOWING TWENTY-TWO APPLES AND CRAB APPLES:

3 to 4 ft., large, strong, each 20c; 3 for 50c; 10 for $1.50; 25 for $3.25; 100 for $12.50.

SUMMER APPLES.

1. Early Coulton. Color, yellowish white. Abundant bearer.
2. Golden Sweet. Pale yellow, very sweet.
3. Red Astrachan. Deep crimson, juicy, rich.
4. Tetofsky. Beautifully striped, juicy.
5. Yellow Transparent. Pale yellow, rich.

AUTUMN APPLES.

6. Alexander. Deep red crimson.
7. Duchess of Oldenburg. Large, rich.
8. Haas. Large, juicy, rich.
9. Maiden's Blush. Red Cheek. Very fine.
10. Fameuse. The Snow Apple. Delicious.
11. Grimes Golden. Highest quality. Deep, greenish yellow.

WINTER APPLES.

12. Baldwin. Deep bright red, juicy, crisp.
13. Ben Davis. Large, handsome, productive.
14. Gideon. Hardy tree. Vigorous, juicy, fine.
15. Longfield. A Russian variety. Magnificent.
16. Pewaukee. Hardy as Oak. Big bearer.
17. Wealthy. One of the best.
18. Wolf River. Greenish yellow. Splendid.

CRAB APPLES.

19. Hyslop. Deep Crimson. Fine.
20. Martha. Great bearer. Splendid.
21. Transcendent. Immense producer. Fruit 2 inches in diameter.
22. Whitney's No. 20. Large, Red.

PRICE OF THE FOLLOWING PEARS:

3 to 4 ft., large, strong, each 20c; 3 for 50c; 10 for $1.50; 25 for $3.20; 100 for $12.50.

23. Early Bartlett. Large size. Delicious.
24. Clapp's Favorite. Yellowish green. Very large, melting and rich.
25. Lawson. One of the best.
26. Wilder. One of the earliest. Great shipper and keeper.

PRICE OF THE FOLLOWING CHERRIES:

3 to 4 ft., large, strong, each 30c; 3 for 75c; 10 for $2.00; 25 for $4.25; 100 for $17.00.

27. Rockport. Clear red. Excellent.
28. Dyehouse. Very early. Splendid quality.
29. English Morello. Blackish red. Rich.
30. Early Richmond. Dark red. Melting.
31. Ostheim. Russian variety. Juicy.

PRICE OF THE FOLLOWING PLUMS:

3 to 4 ft., large, strong, each 25c; 3 for 60c; 10 for $1.75; 25 for $3.75; 100 for $16.00.

32. Czar. Large purple. Elegant.
33. Imperial Gage. Oval, red, juicy.
34. Lombard. Red, round, juicy.
35. De Sota. Very hardy. Yellowish red.
36. Weaver. Fruit large. Purple.
37. Wild Goose. Fruit red, juicy.
38. Milton. Dark red. Fine.

PRICE OF THE FOLLOWING PEACHES:

3 to 4 ft., large, strong, each 20c; 3 for 50c; 10 for $1.50; 25 for $3.15; 100 for $12.00.

39. Crosby. Hardy. One of the best.
40. Crawford's Early. Beautiful yellow.
41. Elberta. Immense size. Elegant flavor.
42. Mountain Rose. Large, red, juicy.

☞ **1 each of the above 42 Trees (including the Bismarck as special premium), 3 to 4 ft., $5.90.**

WE CAN SAVE YOU MONEY

Persons wishing to buy Small Fruit, Apples, Cherries, etc., etc., in large quantities. Please make out an itemized list of your wants and we will quote you our lowest cash prices. Above prices are by express or freight.

Our Nursery Catalog is Free for the asking. A postal card will bring it to your door.

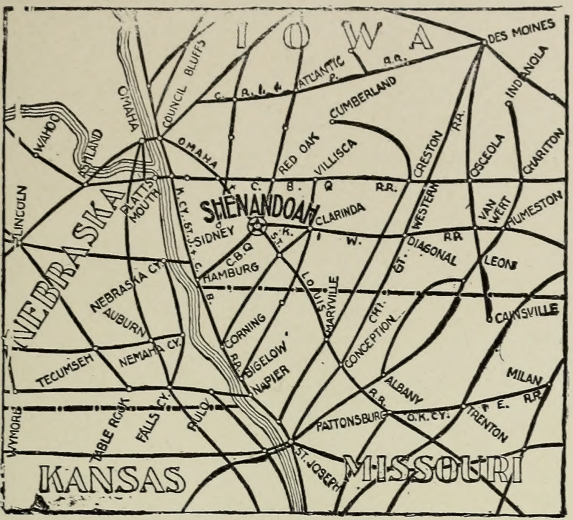
Our Last Word.

Pen, Ink and Paper are not always at hand, but we want to hear from and help our customers, both old and new, in every possible way, and have left this page for you to "WRITE US A LETTER." Tell us what you want, and we will gladly help you, if we can.

Sincerely yours,
RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE.

Your Name..........

Post Office.......... *State*.......... *Date*..........



SHENANDOAH

SHENANDOAH, IOWA, is located in the Southwestern part of Iowa, 20 miles from Nebraska, and same distance from the Mo. line, in the extremely rich fertile valley of the Nishnabotona river, and is noted far and wide as the greatest corn growing district to be found in the world and where corn attains its greatest perfection. This is no idle boast. The claim is not only established but conceded by all who have ever made a trip down this beautiful valley— the Egypt of America. Bayard Taylor, the famous poet, author, journalist and traveler, crossed this part of the country years ago, before Shenandoah existed and when this part of Iowa was unbroken and almost uninhabited. At that time the broad prairies were occupied only by Indians, Prairie Chickens, Wolves and Deer. Standing on a hill top four miles Southwest of where this beautiful City of 5000 inhabitants now reside, Mr. Taylor gazed across the valley of the Nishnabotana river, and declared the landscape was the most beautiful his eyes ever beheld. He called it the garden spot of the world. The rich soil extends four, six and eight feet in depth, full of life-giving qualities that make the monster crops of corn it grows.

SHENANDOAH, PAGE COUNTY, IOWA, is located 485 miles almost due West of Chicago, on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. 366 miles Northwest of St. Louis and 50 miles Southeast of Omaha and Council Bluffs on the main line of the Wabash Railroad, and 150 miles North from Kansas City and 90 miles from St. Joseph, being also the terminus of the Keokuk and Western Railroads; thus we have the benefit of three trunk lines reaching all the leading Cities and Railroad Centers of the Country direct, and United States Senator W. B. Allison, for 36 years said : "It's the most beautiful and stirring City in the State," and of course can prove the correctness of his judgment by every man, woman and child of our thriving City. The post office receipts also indicate this much, as they are larger than any other city of its size in the United States. But this is caused largely by the increased trade of our business, which contributes 50 per cent. of the receipts of the office. This County attained the fame and name of producing more corn—area considered—years ago, than any other like territory in the world. Back in 1880 this County, 22 x 24 miles square, produced SIX MILLION, TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO BUSHELS OF CORN, as shown by the United States census report—over three hundred and twenty bushels of corn for each inhabitant, man, woman and child resident of the County. This equaled the combined production of corn the same year of the following States : Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut and Rhode Island, and in addition equal to more corn than any one of ten other States,

REFERENCE TABLES

Weight of Various Articles.

	Per bu.	
Apples	48	lbs.
" dried	22	"
Barley	48	"
Beans	60	"
Buckwheat	52	"
Blue Grass, Kentucky	14	"
" " English	14	"
Bran	20	"
Canary Seed	60	"
Clover Seed	60	"
Corn field shelled	56	"
" " on ear	70	"
" sweet,	50	"
Corn Meal	50	"
Cranberries	40	"
Dried Peaches	28	"
Flax Seed	56	"
Fowl Meadow	12	"
Hemp Seed	44	"
Hungarian	48	"
Millett	50	"
Oats	32	"
Onions	54	"
Orchard Grass	14	"
Osage Orange	33	"
Peach Pits	50	"
Peas, smooth	60	"
Peas, wrinkled	56	"
Perennial Rye	20	"
Potatoes, heaping measure	60	"
Rape	50	"
Rye	56	"
Red Top	14	"
Salt, coarse	50	"
" Michigan	56	"
Sweet Potatoes	56	"
Timothy Seed	45	"
Turnips	58	"
Wheat	60	"
Flour, per bbl., net	196	"
Salt, per bbl.	280	"
Weight Per Cubic Foot.		
Hay, well settled	4½	lbs.
Corn, on cob in bin	22	"
" shelled	45	"
Wheat, in bin	48	"
Oats, " "	25½	"
Potatoes, in bin	3 ½	"

Quantity of Seed Requisite to Produce a Given Number of Plants to Sow an Acre.

	Quantity per acre.	
Artichoke, 1 oz. to 500 plants	6	oz.
Asparagus, 1 oz. to 800 plants	1	lb.
Asparagus Roots	1,000 to 12,000	
Barley	2½	bu.
Beans, dwarf, 1 pint to 100 feet of drill	1	bu.
Beans, pole, 1 pint to 100 hills	½	bu.
Beets, garden, 1 oz. to 100 feet of drill	7	lbs.
Beets, Mangel, 1 oz. to 100 feet of drill	5	"
Broccoli, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants	2	oz.
Brussels Sprouts, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants	2	oz.
Buckwheat	½	bu.
Cabbage, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants	2	oz.
Carrot, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill	2½	lbs.
Cauliflower, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants	2½	oz.
Celery, 1 oz. to 15,000 plants	2	oz.
Chicory	4	lbs.
Clover, Alsike and White Dutch	6	"
Clover, Lucerner	15 to 25	"
Clover, Crimson Trefoil	10 to 15	"
Clover, Large Red Medium	8 to 12	"
Collards, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants	2	"
Corn, rice (shelled)	2	qts.
Corn, sweet, ¼ pint to 100 hills	6	"
Cress, ¾ oz. to 100 feet of drill	12	"
Cucumber, 1 oz. to 100 hills	1 to 3	"
Egg Plant, 1 oz. to 2,000 plants	4	oz.
Endive, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill	4½	lbs.
Flax, broadcast	½	bu.
Garlic, bulbs, 1 lb. to 10 feet of drill		
Gourd, 2 oz. to 100 hills		
Grass, Blue, Kentucky	2	bu.
Grass, Blue, English	1	bu.
Grass, Hungarian and Millet	½	"
Grass, Mixed Lawn	3 to 5	"
Grass, Red Top, Fancy Clean	6 to 10	lbs.
Grass, Timothy	¼	bu.
Grass, Orchard, Perennial, Rye, Red Top Fowl Meadow, and Wood Meadow	2	bu.
Hemp	½	bu.
Horse Radish Roots	1,000 to 15,000	
Kale, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants	2	oz.
Kohl Rabi, ⅓ oz. to 100 feet of drill	4	lbs.
Leek, ⅓ oz. to 100 feet of drill	4	"
Lettuce, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill	3	"
Martynia, 1 oz. to 100 feet of drill	5	"
Melon, Musk, 1 oz. to 100 hills	1 to 3	"
Melon, Water, 4 oz. to 100 hills	1½ to 4	"
Nasturtium, 2 oz. 100 feet of drill	15	"
Okra, 1 oz. to 100 feet of drill	8	"
Onion Seed, ⅓ oz. to 100 ft. of drill	4 to 5	"
Onion Seed, for Sets	40 to 80	"
Onion Sets, 1 qt. to 40 feet of drill	8	bu.
Parsnip, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill	3	lbs.
Parsley, ¼ oz. to 100 feet of drill	3	"
Peas, garden, 1 pt. to 100 ft. of drill	1 to 3	bu.
Peas, field	2	bu.
Pepper, 1 oz. to 1,500 plants	3	oz.
Pumpkin, ⅓ qt. to 100 hills	3 to 4	lbs.
Radish, ⅔ oz. to 100 feet of drill	10 to 12	"
Rye	1½	bu.
Salsify, ¾ oz. to 100 feet of drill	8	lbs.
Spinach, ½ oz. to 100 feet of drill	8	"
Spurry	15	"
Summer Savory	¾	"
Sunflower	8	"
Squash, Summer, 4 oz, to 100 hills	2	"
Squash, Winter, 8 oz. to 100 hills	2	"
Tomato, 1 oz. to 4,500 plants	1	oz.
Tobacco, 1 oz. to 5,000 plants	2	oz.
Turnip, 1 oz. to 250 feet of drill	1 to 3	lbs.
Vetches	2	bu.

A CLOSING WORD

DEAR FRIEND : In closing we want to say we have endeavored to give honest descriptions of all our seeds and to make everything plain to all, but if there is anything further or you have any questions to ask, write us and we will always be pleased to answer your questions and to give you any further information we can. In fact, we like to have our customers write us at any time when we can be of service to them.

ERRORS. We make them; so does everyone ; and we will most cheerfully correct them if you will write us. Try to write good naturedly, but if you cannot write us anyhow. Our best efforts will be made to fill your orders carefully and correctly, and with our increased facilities and additional room, we hope to get along the coming season without an error if possible and to serve each and all our customers in a manner that will please them. Wishing all a prosperous season and an abundant harvest, we remain,

Sincerely yours,

J. M. Ratekin

Manager

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE

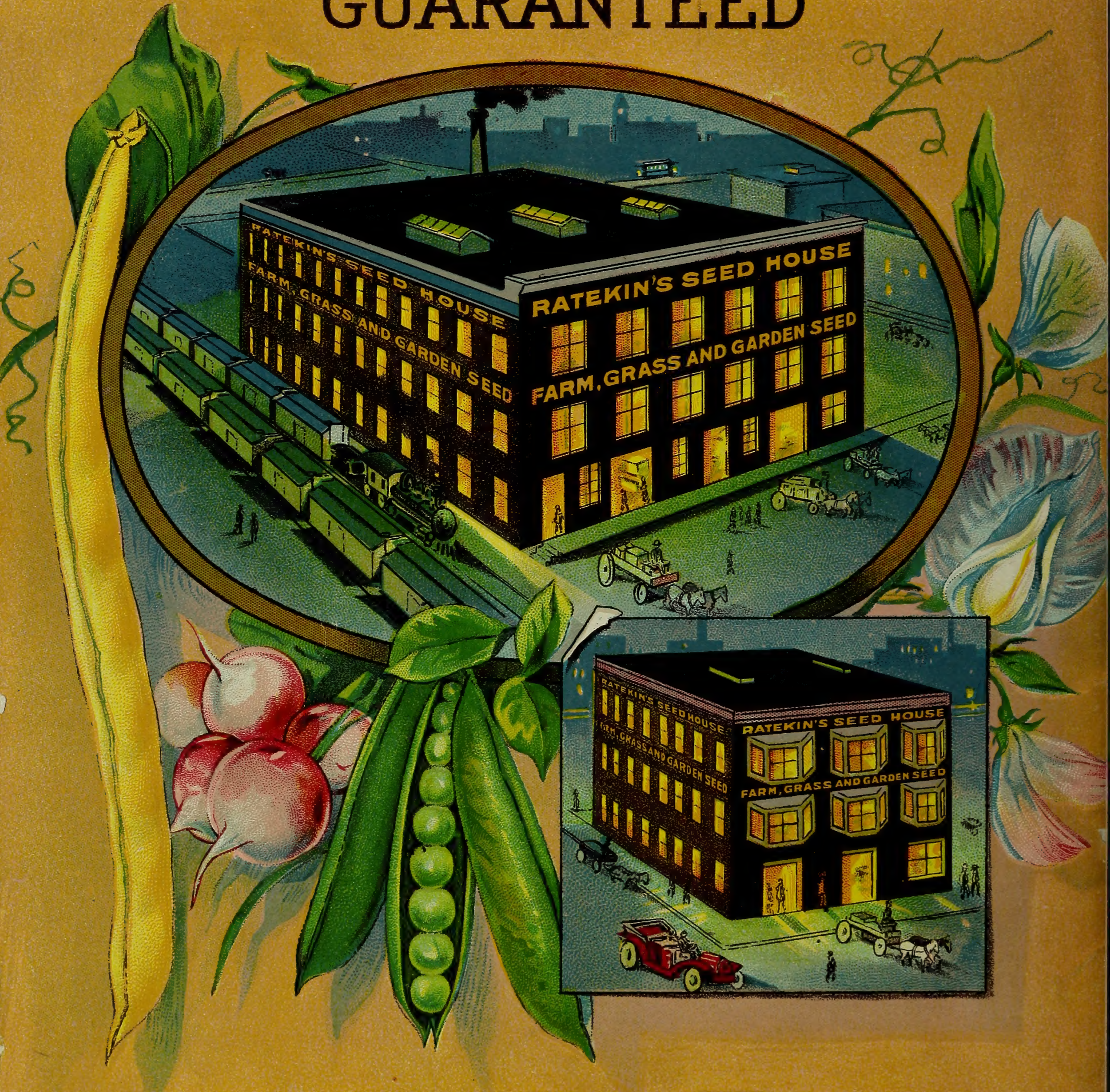
Shenandoah, Iowa

Will H Tracey Sr.

EVERYTHING FOR THE FARM AND GARDEN

RATEKIN'S SEEDS

GUARANTEED


RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE
FARM, GRASS AND GARDEN SEED
RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE
FARM, GRASS AND GARDEN SEED
RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE
FARM, GRASS AND GARDEN SEED
RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE
FARM, GRASS AND GARDEN SEED

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE

Shenandoah. Iowa. U.S.A.

THE LARGEST MAIL ORDER SEED HOUSE IN THE WEST.

STECHER CO. ROCHESTER, N.Y.